Hafa Adai!
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Saipan Tribune

75¢
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
One of the seven "victims" is sprawled on the ground next to a burning tourist bus and vehicles that a group of "terrorists" detonated with a bomb at Fishing Base in Garapan as part of yesterday's annual KONFITMA training.

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees be an advisory board or governing board?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Four Liberation Day Queen candidates are introduced to the public.
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NATION

President Barack Obama leads the nation in commemorating Memorial Day.
➤ PAGE 15

BIGGEST KONFITMA TRAINING YET

Exercise simulates terror attacks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Several persons were "killed" and several others were "injured" and "arrested" in simulated terror attacks on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in a 36-hour full-scale all-hazard Exercise KONFITMA that will be completed today.

This year's 5th annual KONFITMA is the biggest since the training started in 2009 because this time it includes not only Saipan but also Tinian and Rota, according to CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Marvin K. Seman.

Seman said over 400 persons from local and federal enforcement and government agencies participated in the training.

Members of the Civil Support Team from Guam, Hawaii, and Alaska also joined in the annual training.

KONFITMA initially kicked off last Wednesday, May 21, on Tinian and at the Saipan airport.

Seman said two more scenarios will play out on Saipan and one on Rota this morning, Wednesday.

Seman said yesterday's operation began at 6:40am when authorities received a call about an active shooter at the Saipan airport.

See EXERCISE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Medics and police officers rescue one of the wounded "victims" from a bus and vehicles that were burned and detonated with a bomb by a group of "terrorists" at Fishing Base in Garapan as part of yesterday's KONFITMA training.

Inos makes new case for divert airfield on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has called on the U.S. Air Force anew to place its planned divert airfield on Tinian, saying the continued insistence on the use of Saipan creates an "impression" in CNMI people's minds and hearts that this military branch "has no real intention of keeping past promises by the United States government of being good neighbors or stewards of the land."

Such "negative impression," the governor said, will "not bode well" for the Marines, the Navy, or the Army, which all want to hold additional training in the CNMI related to the Asian pivot.

As of this week, the Air Force has not decided yet where to put an alternative landing base if Andersen Air Force Base in Guam becomes unavailable because of weather or war.

Gen. Herbert C. Carlisle, commander of the Pacific Air Forces or COMPACAF, told Inos that National Defense Authorization Act funding could be put "at-risk" if no progress is made on the location of the divert airfield.

Inos, in response, said the CNMI does not want that to happen.

"However, if by this time in the process, the Air Force is not certain about the viability of the Tinian location, then we fully understand the Air Force's desire to explore other options to establish locational capability outside of the CNMI," the governor said in his May 21 response letter to Carlise, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), in an

See AIRFIELD on Page 4

Crisostomo to be sentenced today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joseph A. Crisostomo, a habitual offender who was convicted of kidnapping, raping, killing, and robbing bartender Emerita R. Romero, will be sentenced today.

Crisostomo

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hold the sentencing at 9am.

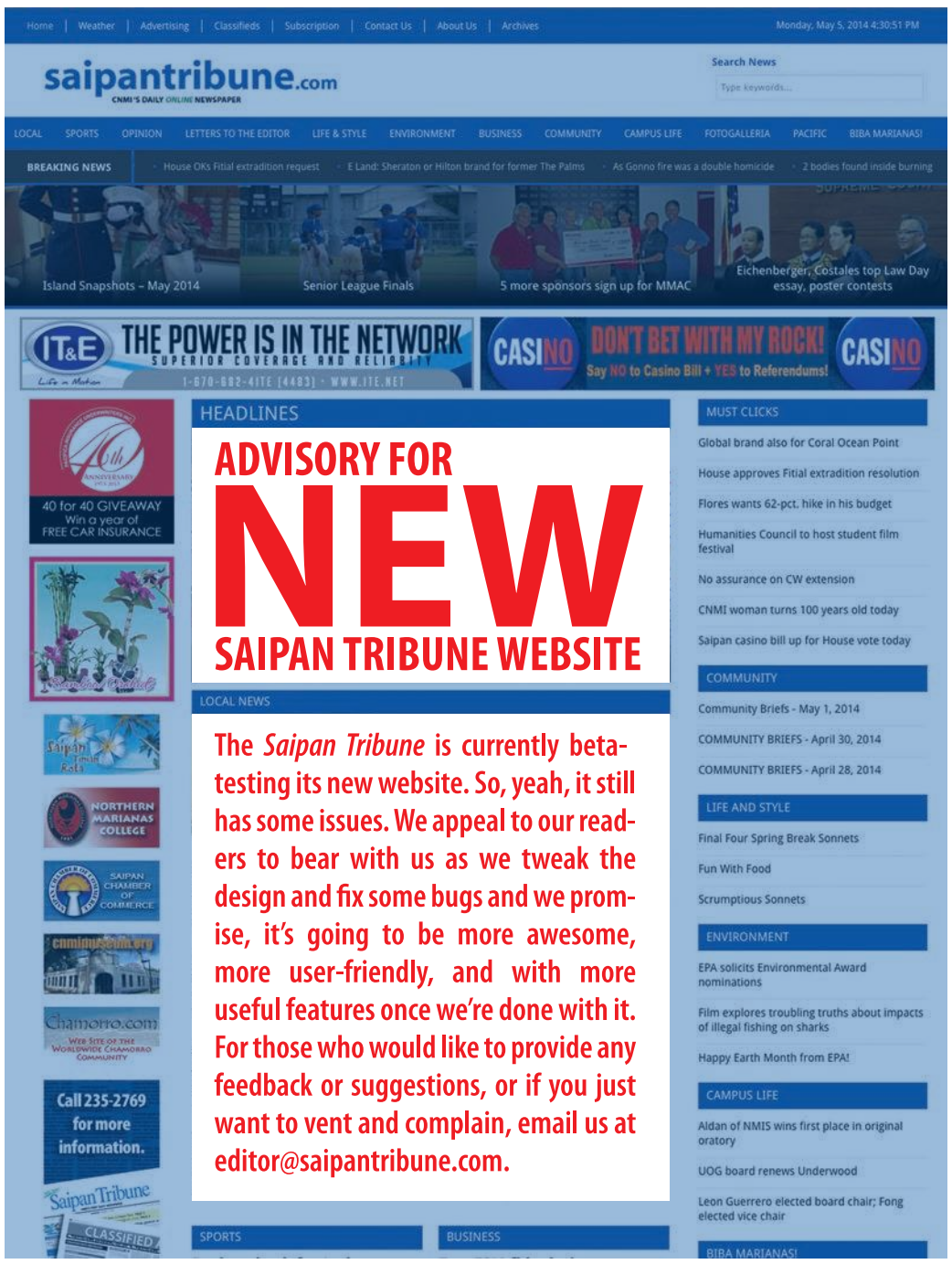
Last April 24, a jury found the 40-year-old Crisostomo guilty of first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first-degree,

See CRISOSTOMO on Page 4

Senator eyes changing CHC board to 'governing' one. PAGE 4
CPA police sergeant is accused of drug trafficking. PAGE 3

Local

NMC projects 14-percent enrollment spike this fall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LOCAL NEWS
The Saipan Tribune is currently beta-testing its new website. So, yeah, it still has some issues. We appeal to our readers to bear with us as we tweak the design and fix some bugs and we promise, it's going to be more awesome, more user-friendly, and with more useful features once we're done with it. For those who would like to provide any feedback or suggestions, or if you just want to vent and complain, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.
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No assurance on CW extension
CNMI woman turns 100 years old today
Saipan casino bill up for House vote today
COMMUNITY
Community Briefs - May 1, 2014
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SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The islands' only community college expects to see a spike in its enrollment numbers this coming fall 2014 semester.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart told *Saipan Tribune* the institution projects a minimum 14-percent enrollment increase this fall. The college had 1,171 full-time students last fall 2013 semester.

Hart cited four reasons for the rosy projection. First, the recent reaffirmation of the college accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has regained people's trust in NMC and the quality of its programs, Hart said.

The college's recent partnership with the Rio Salado College is also a factor in the forecast growth. The partnership allows NMC to offer 19 new certificate degree programs for its students.

A new four-year academic degree will also be offered this fall 2014 semester after the Board of Regents approved the implementation of the bachelor's degree in business. Since this was announced, the college has been receiving a lot of inquiries from potential students, Hart said.

The new business degree program is the second four-year course offering at NMC; the other is the bachelor's degree in education.

Another factor for the projected hike in enrollees is the offering of credit for prior learning, which recognizes the life experiences of students, which could help them obtain associate and bachelor degrees.

NMC has been seeing a decline in its enrollment in the last few years, primarily because of the threat to its accreditation status. It was only in February this year when NMC was able to reaffirm its full accreditation as a result of the significant progress it has made in its programs, leadership, management, and others. Accreditation allows a student to transfer credits earned at NMC to other accredited colleges and universities.

At present, the college is awaiting the decision of the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges regarding its application to shift its accreditation to the Senior Commission. A decision is expected in July this year.

Cigarette tax hike bill could pass Senate today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If senators pass this afternoon the latest committee version of a cigarette tax increase bill from the House, then smokers could see a 50-cent increase in tax upon the bill's signing into law and another 50-cent hike in three years or in 2017.

The original House bill, authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), increases cigarette tax from $2 to $4 a pack.

The latest version from the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee would cut that increase in half and spreads it in three years.

"The committee thinks increasing the cigarette tax from $2 to $4 is too drastic. We're recommending a gradual increase. I believe we have the vote at the Senate to pass the committee version of the bill," Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune.*

Taimanao's committee earlier proposed a $1 increase for two years after March 31, 2014, and another $1 hike thereafter to reach the $4 a pack cigarette tax.

But the latest committee version, according to Taimanao, imposes a 50-cent increase once the bill becomes law.

"The next 50 cents increase will be three years later. And then it would be up to future lawmakers whether they want to continue the increase the tax after that," Taimanao added.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), a committee member, wants stronger enforcement of tax laws to come with the proposal to increase cigarette tax.

A copy of the committee report was still unavailable as of yesterday, but it was already placed on the Senate session agenda, which was rescheduled thrice.

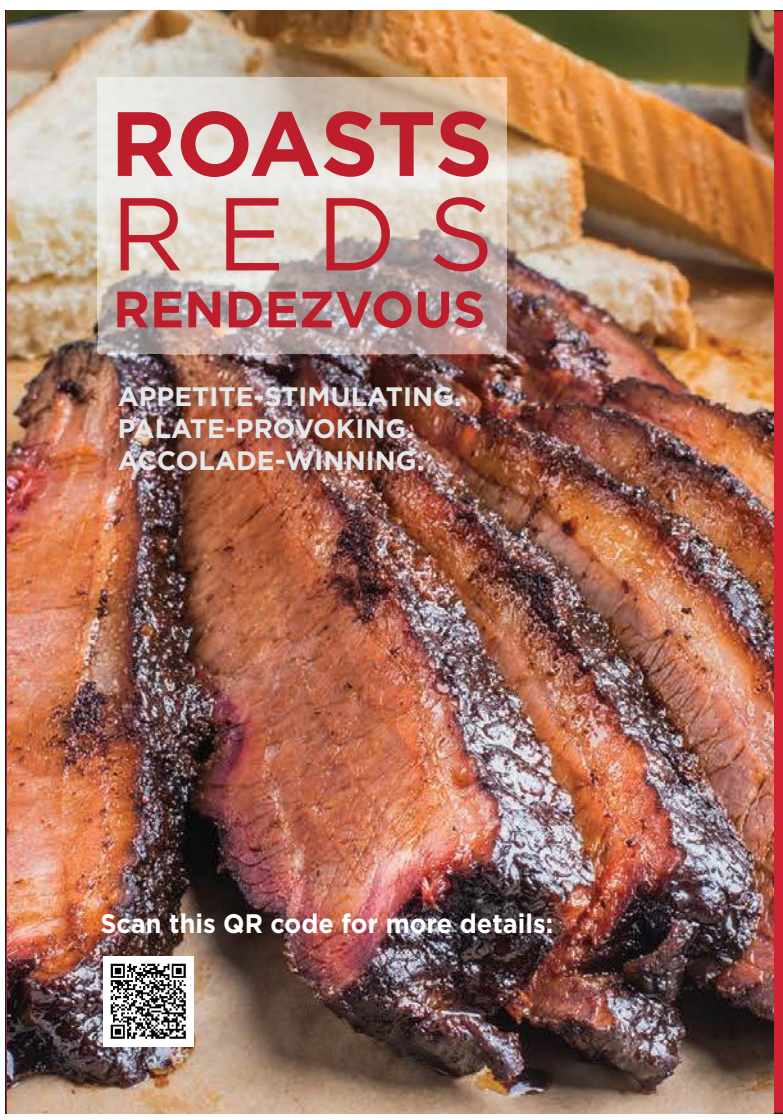
The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee acknowledges the increase in non-communicable diseases in the CNMI and its negative impacts. But it also notes public comments that the original bill's intent of increasing cigarette tax by $2 is "excessive and that it could potentially hurt businesses." The committee said a gradual increase would be a compromise.

A 23-year-old San Vicente resident, who smokes some 10 sticks of cigarettes a day, said a 50-cent increase in cigarette tax is still bearable and won't force him to quit smoking at all.

If anything, he said, he would at least try to cut back on the number of cigarettes he consumes every day.

"If you're a smoker, it's really hard to quit," he added.

Others said imposing steep cigarette tax would force many to resort to buying illegal or smuggled cigarettes, which have lower prices.



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MURPHY-GOODE

CPA police sergeant is accused of drug trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal agents arrested yesterday a Commonwealth Ports Authority police sergeant for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

Floyd Mafnas Mendiola was served with an arrest warrant after the filing of an indictment that charges him with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

The indictment was filed under seal in federal court on May 20, 2014. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona unsealed the case yesterday following Mendiola's arrest.

Manglona allowed Mendiola's temporarily release to a third party custodian upon posting a $25,000 unsecured bond.

According to the indictment, from Feb. 27, 2013, through March 2, 2013, Mendiola conspired with other persons to distribute "ice." No other details were provided in the indictment.

Court-appointed counsel Joseph Horey appeared for Mendiola at the hearing. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton represented the U.S. government.

CUC hires translator to improve customer service

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has hired a global company that would handle its translation and interpretation needs for its non-English speaking customers.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Voiance, the second largest over-the-phone interpretation company in the world, was contracted for one year and the service cost is $0.85 per minute, with no monthly minimum.

"As you know, we deal with many different nationalities at CUC. Utility services are very important, and it is critical that CUC and its customers communicate effectively so that there are no mistakes or misunderstandings," he explained yesterday.

It was learned that Voiance offers 24/7 over-the-phone interpretation in over 200 languages. Interpreters are typically available within 15 seconds of the call being placed.

Warren said that Voiance will allow CUC staff to communicate much more efficiently and effectively with customers who don't use English as their primary language or those who don't speak English at all.

"We expect our service level to improve significantly for CUC's non-English speaking customers. Since the service is provided over the phone, this capability is not restricted just to customer service and cashiering but is available to field staff [lineman, engineers, disconnection crews, etc.] as well," he said.

Warren said that CUC chose Voiance due to the number of languages offered and their experience serving many customers in the utility and government sectors.

Meantime, CUC is alerting customers in Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio of a potential reduced water service because of interruption of electric service to the Obyan well field. CUC crews have worked throughout the weekend to install portable backup generators to key wells.

It was learned that electric division distribution crews are working to identify a potential ground fault in an underground portion of a primary line. Specialized equipment will be brought in from Guam to help locate the trouble area so repairs can be made.

According to Ricardo Saavedra, Water and Wastewater Division manager, CUC expects near full supply once the backup generators are in place. However, customers should be aware of the potential for reduced service levels during peak periods.

"Despite CUC's best efforts to provide full-time water service throughout its service territory, outages can occur due to the poor condition of its delivery system, in this case an interruption in the electrical distribution system. CUC apologizes for this inconvenience and will continue to work on restoring services as soon as possible," Saavedra said. He encouraged affected customers to call the Water Division at 322-5030 with any questions or concerns.

NMC, Japan university ink accord

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College signed Friday an exchange agreement with Japan's Daito Bunka University for a three-year collaboration that will enable undergraduate students and academic and administrative staff at both institutions to study for a period of up to one year at the other institution.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart told *Saipan Tribune* that, based on the agreement, the total number of students exchanged in a given year will be two or less. As far as possible, the number of students exchanged shall be equal.

Hart disclosed that Daito Bunka University has a number of programs that NMC students can explore, specifically the university's sports and athletics program, which is now open to NMC students.

"Daito Bunka University is one of the top universities in Japan especially in sports and athletics field where our students can avail. We have many students here on island excelling in sports and would like to pursue a PE-related degree. This is a great opportunity," Hart told *Saipan Tribune*.

Based on the agreement, exchange students taking credit courses shall continue to pay tuition to their home institution during the period of the exchange. The host institution will not require tuition from exchange students. This means no added tuition will be assessed exchange students in both institutions, which will mean a big saving for local students, Hart said.

Exchange students are expected to begin studying at Daito Bunka University in April next year for the start of the university's spring semester. There are three campuses that NMC students can select to take their courses, according to Hart.

Exchange students must meet the admission requirements of the host institution in order to be accepted for full-time study.

Undergraduate students and academic and administrative staff will have access to all educational and recreational, or athletic facilities at the host institution under the same conditions as domestic students. However, they shall observe the regulations of the host institution.

The host institution shall expeditiously provide the home institution with a transcript of each student's courses and grades upon completion of the exchange program.

Additional areas of cooperation between the two institutions such as faculty and staff exchanges, joint research projects, or support for faculty shall be greatly encouraged.

The agreement has a provision that if a party wishes to discontinue the exchange, a six-month notice is required. The agreement was signed by Daito Bunka University president Masao Ota.

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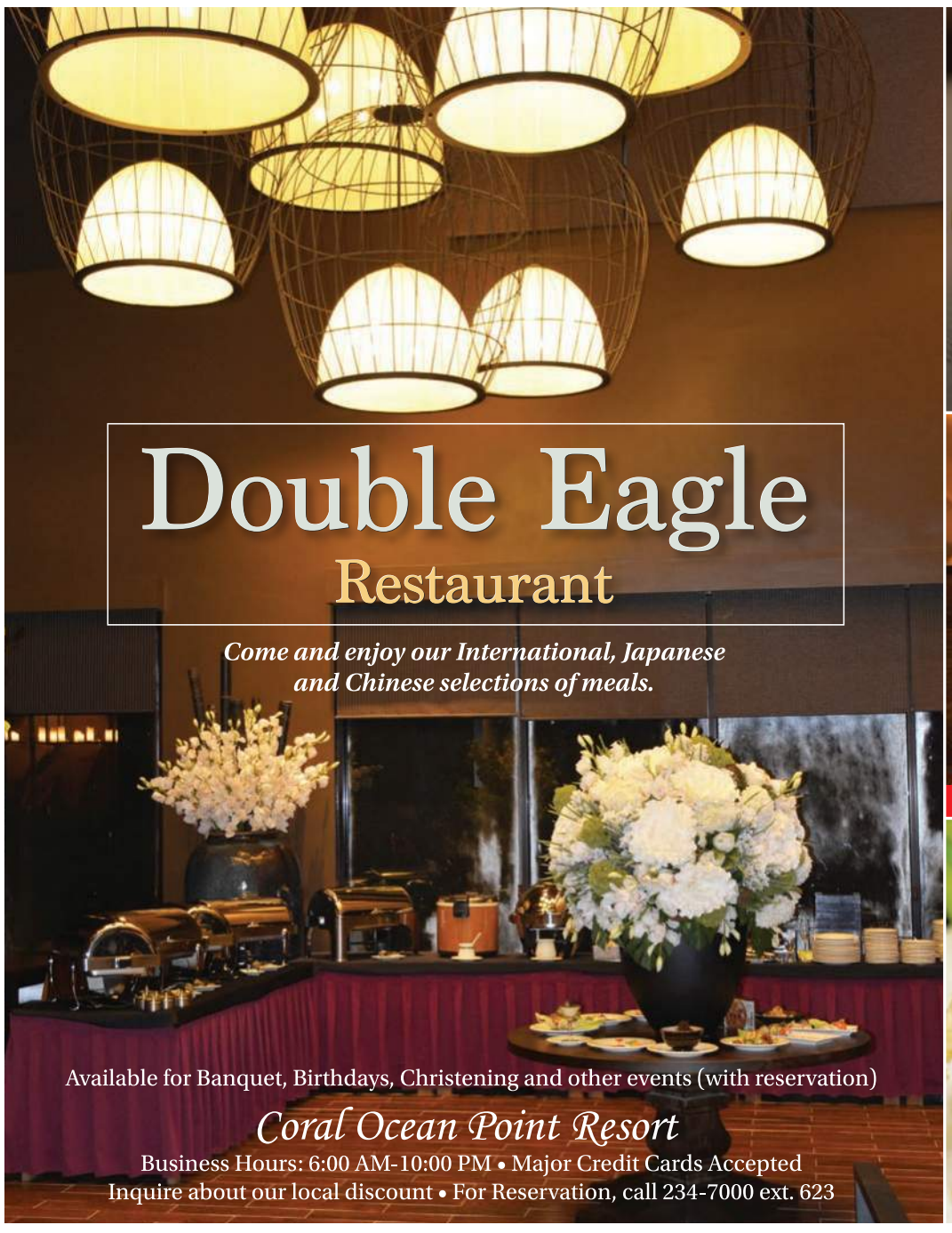
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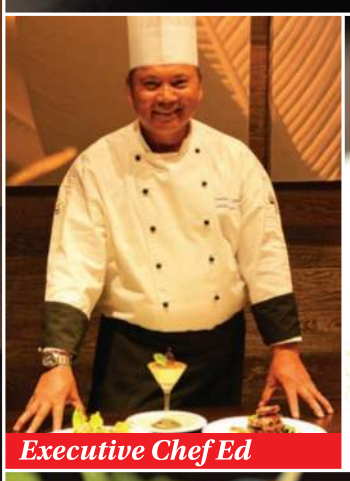
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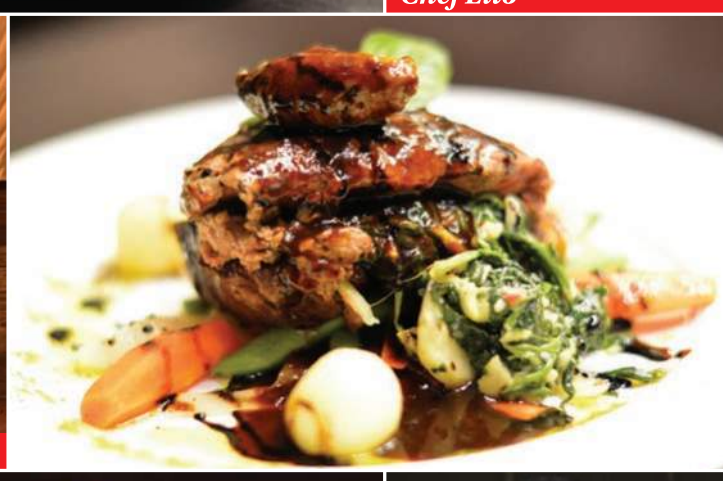

Chef Rey

Senator eyes changing CHC board from 'advisory' to 'governing'

» Power to appoint CEO to rest with board, not governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian) seeks to change the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s board of trustees from an "advisory" to a "governing" one, and to take away from the governor the authority to appoint the chief executive officer and give that power to the board instead. He also proposes to reduce the number of trustees from seven to five.

The current advisory CHC board does not see eye to eye with CEO Esther Muña on a number of issues, such that Gov. Eloy S. Inos now feels compelled to mediate.

Borja's Senate Bill 18-52 could be acted on in this afternoon's session, wherein senators are also expected to pass a House concurrent resolution on the CNMI government's revenues and resources for fiscal year 2015.

The bill amends certain sections of Public Law 16-51 or the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Act of 2008.

Borja wants to "empower" the CHC board of trustees "to make policies and perform all acts necessary and expedient to ensure the delivery of quality care in a financially responsible manner" for the CNMI people.

He said it is imperative that a qualified group of individuals, rather than an individual, make the decisions for the corporation.

The Tinian senator's bill also requires CHC to "provide at all times medical referral services, including the payment of full airfare and transportation costs of patients and escorts on Tinian and Rota who are referred by a licensed physician to the Commonwealth Health Center for further medical services or testing."

The bill also changes from monthly to quarterly CHC's issuance of public financial statements.

S.B. 18-52 also requires the chief financial officer to have at least a master's degree in business administration and five years of experience in healthcare finances. The CFO, according to the bill, shall have custody of all of CHC's money, among other things.

$100K cash bail for speeding driver who left bag with guns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a $100,000 cash bail on a federal probationer who was pulled over for alleged speeding who fled on foot, leaving behind a bag that contained three illegal handguns and bullets.

At an initial court appearance, Camacho appointed assistant public defender Mike Sato to serve as counsel for Daniel Muna Quitugua.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 3, 2014 at 1:30pm.

Quitugua, 35, was taken to court on charges of manufacture, sale, or possession of firearms and dangerous device, resisting arrest, and assault and battery.

Police detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in his report that crime scene technicians processed the three handguns: a .45 caliber with no firing pin and its barrel was drilled, one 9mm handgun, and one .38 revolver.

Saralu said the .45 caliber had one magazine with seven rounds of .45 caliber ammunition and the 9mm had one magazine.

Saralu said inside the bag were 83 pieces of .45 cal. bullets, 50 pieces of .38 revolver bullets, and 62 pieces of 9mm bullets.

The detective disclosed that Quitugua had no driver's license and any identification when police officer Norris Kwon pulled over his car for speeding.

Police investigation showed that on Friday morning Quitugua was driving east on a Toyota Corolla on As Terlaje Hill when Kwon observed from the laser speed device that he was speeding at 62 miles per hour in the posted 40mph.

Kwon pursued the car and pulled it over by the water tank near Northern Marianas College. Kwon asked police officer Travis Hurst to meet him and assist him at the scene.

Kwon issued Quitugua with a citation for speeding.

Kwon, however, smelled the odor of burnt marijuana emanating from the car so he advised Quitugua to step out. At the time, Hurst was assisting the passenger out of the vehicle.

Quitugua leaned over and grabbed a bag from the floorboard of the passenger seat and told Kwon that he was going to take it with him. Quitugua and Kwon struggled over possession of the bag.

Quitugua then fled on foot, leaving behind the bag that Kwon found to contain three illegal handguns and ammunition.

With the help of other police officers and anonymous 911 callers, Quitugua was apprehended at his residence 20 minutes.

Saipan Tribune learned that Quitugua is on federal probation after he served a 120-month prison term for armed robbery in 2004.

EXERCISE

From Page 1

Commonwealth Ports Authority police and Department of Public Safety police responded and were able to take down the male "suspect," who was armed with a handgun.

Seman said emergency evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures were executed during the airport operation that lasted an hour and a half.

Seman said the officers did not shoot the "suspect" and only subdued him.

No one was " injured" in the airport shooting scenario.

The second scenario happened at 8:30am when authorities received a call about a bomb threat at Garapan Elementary School and bomb explosives at Saipan Southern High School.

At Garapan and Southern High, students were safely "evacuated" while law enforcers searched for suspects and bombs.

Between 9:15am and 9:20am, an "active shooter" was causing panic at the Commonwealth Health Center. The male "suspect," armed with a small handgun, took hostage a cashier and a pharmacist and demanded money and drugs.

The hospital initiated a lockout procedure and immediately notified law enforcements.

The "hostage taking" happened in the pharmacy area at the main entrance of the hospital.

The "hostage taker" eventually ran to the lower parking area of the hospital where law enforcers "shot" and "wounded" him.

While the CHC incident was going, police received a call about a chemical and biological laboratory found at the Telesource building near the airport.

At this juncture, the CNMI government asked for assistance from the Civil Support Team.

While law enforcers were busy at the Telesource area, two male individuals aboard a car got down at the Garapan Fishing Base and fired several shots at the Horiguchi Building.

Federal enforcers and security personnel at Horiguchi initiated a lockout procedure and facilities security plan.

The shooters eventually made their way to a target of opportunity—a tourist bus. The terrorists detonated an explosive device that burned the bus and a couple of other vehicles. Seven persons were seen lying on the ground near the burning vehicles.

A couple of victims were "dead." Police officers later arrested one "suspect."

After the Fishing Base attack, three more scenarios were carried out yesterday afternoon and late at night on Saipan.

KONFITMA is a partnership between the CNMI, the U.S. Department of Defense, and various agencies to test the response capabilities of law enforcers and many agencies, not just for the incidents but also in handling the hot weather.

CRISOSTOMO

From Page 1

and robbery.

Camacho, who presided over the trial and decided the misdemeanor charges, found Crisostomo guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

First-degree murder carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment; sexual assault in the first degree, 30 years; kidnapping with injuries, 30 years; robbery with injuries, 20 years; assault and battery, one year; and disturbing the peace, six months.

At today's sentencing hearing, those who don't support leniency for Crisostomo will be allowed to speak first. Those who support leniency will speak next.

Romero was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found her body in a small room at an abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis. Autopsy showed she was beaten up and strangled to death with a pair of leggings.

AIRFIELD

From Page 1

interview yesterday, said "at the end of the day, the military will be the one to decide where it needs to place the divert airfield."

Tebuteb authored a resolution supporting the placement of a proposed divert airfield on Saipan. His House Resolution 18-52, prefiled in January this year, remains with the Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations.

The Air Force proposes to improve an existing airfield through the construction of facilities and infrastructure in the western Pacific to support one aircraft squadron and about 500 support personnel for periodic exercises, emergency, and humanitarian assistance.

Tebuteb said if the divert facilities are on Saipan, the project will require the lease of public lands resulting in income to the CNMI. However, if it's placed on Tinian, federal lease-back lands will be used, he said.

Inos earlier said the Air Force's request to lease 33 acres of land on Saipan for the next 50 years for a proposed divert airfield "is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area."

On Tinian, two-thirds of lands are already leased to the military.

Carlisle provided Inos on May 7 with a copy of the Air Force's report submitted to the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committee concerning the divert and exercise project.

Two weeks later, the U.S. House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 that includes Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) one-page amendment to expand the existing authorization for a proposed U.S. Air Force divert airfield construction project "at any suitable location in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Tebuteb said Sablan's amendment gives the Air Force flexibility where to put the airfield, and not necessarily on Tinian.

Best interest

The governor, however, reiterates that placing the divert airfield on Tinian is in the "long-term best interest" of both the Air Force and the CNMI.

He said the Tinian alternative can fully satisfy all the mission requirements set out in the assessment work completed to date.

If, as suggested, the actual use of the divert airfield will be slight, then the Air Force can surely co-exist with the Marines on Tinian, Inos said, and use the West Field as its operations location.

Inos cited other "indirect" benefits if Tinian is chosen as location of the divert airfield.

"For example, with respect to the overall militarization ongoing in the CNMI, the fact that the citizens and residents of Tinian support and are prepared to welcome the Air Force to that island should be re-assessed and evaluated," he told Carlisle.

The governor said one could argue that the Air Force has improperly discounted or failed to calculate the true worth that should be given to that fundamental fact.

Moreover, he said, if the Air Force is to become the first active military force doing work in the CNMI, he would hope that the Air Force would do so in such a way as to "create goodwill and a spirit of cooperation" between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense.

"The Air Force is uniquely positioned to select a location from which long-lasting military activities in our islands will occur. The Tinian location presents a situation where military activities are welcome," Inos said.

'Not well taken'

The governor said the people of Tinian have labored under economic duress for U.S. military development of the property already under lease for the 40 years.

"For the Air Force to now argue that the initial costs are just too high to develop the property, which was expressly acquired for military purposes so many decades ago, is not well-taken. Worse, I fear the Air Force's insistence upon Saipan as the only location for this initiative is creating an impression in the minds and hearts of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands that the Air Force has no real intention of keeping past promises made by the United States government of being good neighbors or stewards of the land," he said.

Combining the Air Force and Marines initiatives on Tinian, he said, "makes better economic and common sense in the long run while at the same time resulting in the greatest benefit to the people of the CNMI."

Doing this also honors the commitment in Section 806 of the Covenant between the CNMI and the U.S., where the latter agrees to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the CNMI, Inos said.

"As governor, I am under an affirmative duty to properly manage and protect the limited public land we have available for future generations and growth. Under the circumstances, it must be recognized that the initial startup cost should not necessarily be the controlling determinative factor when major decisions involving the public interest must be made," he added.

The governor hopes that the CNMI and the Air Force can continue the discussion.

He reiterated that should the Air Force decide that Tinian is the more appropriate location, then his administration is prepared to give its full support and undertake actions needed to push the project.

Meanwhile, Sablan's amendment to the 2015 NDAA would permit expenditure of funds on Tinian in the event that the Air Force and the CNMI agree that Tinian is the appropriate location for a divert airfield.

The authorized $29.3 million would construct an aircraft parking apron, a maintenance facility, and a hazardous cargo pad.

Georgetown charged CUC $1.6M in 5 yrs.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The consultant for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, Georgetown Consulting Services, has charged and collected over $1.626 million in fees since it started reviewing rate cases for the agency.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that CUC paid $1.63 million for Georgetown's services from fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2014. This includes $115,322 in travel expenses for the off-island consultant.

In fiscal year 2009—covering the period from November 2008 to September 2009—CUC spent $368,581.56 for services rendered by Georgetown in reviewing several matters for CUC, including the levelized energy adjustment clause rate, electric base rate, contract protocol, agreement with Commonwealth Development Authority, review of stipulated orders, CUC financials and interim financial plan, ARRA projects, water and wastewater, and others.

In fiscal year 2010, payments for Georgetown totaled $416,030.85—so far the biggest charge incurred by CUC as payment to the CPUC consultant.

In fiscal year 2011, that cost went down slightly to $351,144.16.

In fiscal year 2012, CUC's total payment to Georgetown reached $234,887.40. The lowest amount paid the consultant was in fiscal year 2013 with $43,060. That was the time when CPUC was dormant.

As of March 2014, Georgetown's invoice to CUC totaled $212,382.27. This is expected to grow as Georgetown is still doing work on CUC's rate case petition that is currently on the CPUC's table.

Georgetown, which the CPUC hired in 2007, charges fees for the number of hours it works on a rate case. Its billing goes to the regulated entity that filed the rate case petition.

Saipan Tribune learned that Georgetown's contract is expiring at the end of fiscal year in September. CPUC commissioners have decided to issue a request for proposal, or RFP, for the services.

CPUC commissioners earlier expressed satisfaction with Georgetown's performance, describing its fees as reasonable and fair.

According to CPUC, Georgetown was highly recommended for the specialized job by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The group, whose members are experts in the field, also provide similar services to utilities commissions in American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Island, and Guam.

Importer fails to ship back illegal pesticides to China

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The importer of illegal pesticides that were found concealed beneath vegetable pickles failed to ship the confiscated items back to China by a May 23 deadline. Moreover, the importer is disputing the fines and reassessment of taxes that the Division of Customs Services imposed on other "misdeclared" and undeclared items that came in with the illegal pesticides in late April.

Customs identified the importer in May as Yin Jia Corp., represented by Dong Gui Li, operator of Green Consume stores on Middle Road and As Lito.

Custody of the illegal pesticides has changed hands, from Customs to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman confirmed yesterday that the importer was given up to last Friday to ship back to China the illegal pesticides but it failed to do so. He said the bureau is now "elevating the urgency" of the matter.

"Now we are going back to the drawing board. …The case is still open, it is still developing," Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said BECQ will talk to the importer again. Continued failure to ship back the illegal pesticides could result in penalties or other sanctions, he said.

"Everything is still on the table," the BECQ administrator added.

Customs director Joe Mafnas separately said yesterday that the importer is disputing the fines and the reassessment of taxes on the other items that were either "misdeclared" or "undeclared."

These include 120 bottles of hard liquor that were declared only as cooking wine and therefore would have been assessed a lower tax.

Mafnas said Customs will meet with the importer again.

It was also learned that the importer, which is now denying ownership of the illegal pesticides, hired an attorney.

The importer's representative, Dong Gui Li of Green Consume, ate some of the pickled leafy vegetables in front of Customs personnel when asked about the content of a 5-gallon plastic container. Customs probed further and discovered beneath the 3-inch layer of vegetables hundreds of packets of illegal pesticides.

The packets had non-English labels. Customs later found out that they were pesticides that are considered illegal on U.S. soil.

BECQ, in an earlier notice, said all pesticides must be labeled with the name of the pesticide in bold letters, restricted use designation, description of which pests are controlled, chemical name of pesticide, active ingredients and percentages, inert ingredients, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration number, patent numbers, directions for proper use and appropriate signal words such as caution, warning, or danger poison.

ON SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

NMC: Bill restricts college's ability to keep personnel, grow programs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart and members of the Board of Regents are opposing a pending legislation that they said would create further chaos to the only community college on island.

Senate Legislative Initiative 18-03 aims to place a cap on government expenditures at a level similar to that of the CNMI budget in fiscal year 2013.

During Friday's board meeting, college officials ratified their comment on the bill, citing three reasons.

First, they said the legislation would limit NMC's budget to an amount that is equal to one of the lowest, if not the least, budget it has ever received from the government.

The amount, the college said, restricts NMC's ability to meet workforce needs, develop new programs, and recruit and retain highly qualified faculty and staff.

Further, the initiative does not identify NMC as a recipient of any surplus funds from the government.

"For these and many other reasons, NMC does not support legislative initiative 18-03," Hart said in the college's comments the bill addressed to Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chairperson of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

The legislative initiative has to be passed by three-fourths of the members of each house and approved by voters. If ratified, this will cap the government's annual expenditure at $104.3 million.

According to the initiative, the government must address its obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund and land compensation settlement or judgments within its budget. Any surplus revenue, meantime, will be appropriated as additional funds for public health, safety and education programs, among others.

A peer comparison study conducted by NMC indicates that the funding allocation for every student in the only community college on island has been decreasing in years compared to per student allocation received in many states and other peer institutions.

This limited funding affects compliance with accreditation requirements and standards.

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** Ford Explorer Base retail price $35,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.18 or $263.16 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,210.80.

DFS tops 2014 Corporate Challenge

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A total of 11 companies participated in the 2014 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Corporate Challenge, with Duty Free Shoppers Saipan coming out victorious on Sunday, May 25, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe.

A stiff breeze and beautiful weather cooled the tough competitions that included teams from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Coca Cola, Triple J (two teams), Hyatt Regency Saipan, DFS, Marpac, Fiesta Resort and Spa, IT&E, Delta Management Corp., and G4S.

DFS took first place with 77 points.

"This is their first win ever and DFS had a strong showing in all four events, and the dancing Saipanda took center stage in their dance routine," said Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski.

DFS president Marian Aldan-Pierce was happy with their win. "We're delighted to have our very first win after so many years of participating," she said.

IT&E provided close competition in second place with 75 points, while Delta Management's dance and jingle won the Spirit Award.

Each winning teams received prizes such as a large box of goodies and gift certificates that were all donated by Chamber members.

This year's theme was "Celebrating the Workforce."

According Arenovski, the event started with a new twist—"each team was invited to sing or dance a jingle to best represent their company."

Delta Management amused the crowd with a song-and-dance pantomime of windshield-wiping, gasoline fill-ups, and great customer service.

Coca-Cola "showed their unstoppable spirit" with cheerleaders, pompoms, and props.

IT&E sung to the popular YMCA by the Village People while Hyatt line-danced, took selfies, and invited bystanders to "join and shake it."

"These four teams were top scorers for the first event," Arenovski said.

The favorite tug-of-war was again a hit with the crowd, while the third event, called "Corporate Feud," required each team to guess the most popular responses to random questions, similar to the television game show *Family Feud*.

Duty Free Shoppers Saipan shows off their first place trophy after winning this year's Corporate Challenge. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The final event was an "Obstacle Relay Race" that took each team through the fields of medical work, waitressing, office work, and banking—wearing hard hats while running the course.

"Most teams brought family and friends to help cheer them on throughout the event and to join in their barbecues and relaxation between games," Arenovski said.

Team and raffle prizes were donated by Coca-Cola, D&Q, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort and Spa, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Marpac, Xerox, and Pacific Trading Co.

"Special thanks to G4S as well for providing security service for the event area after tent setups on Saturday and to KKMP's Gary Sword for providing the sound system and music for the entire day," Arenovski said.

The Chamber also expressed "deep gratitude" to First Hawaiian Bank, Saipan Shipping Co., Bridge Capital LLC, and Pacific Islands Club for donating entry fees even though their companies were not able to participate in the weekend event.

"All proceeds from the event will go directly toward the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund. The Chamber's Education Committee grants multiple scholarships every year to local students," Arenovski said.

This year's scholarships will be awarded at the general membership meeting on June 4 at the Saipan World Resort.

"Awards of $2,000 each will be awarded to five high school students and one scholarship to a Northern Marianas Technical Institute applicant," Arenovski said.

For more information on the event and the organization, contact Jill Arenovski at (670) 233-7150, email her at executive@saipanchamber.com, or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber.

LOCAL WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

WADACO INC. Saipan, a local manpower company will be recruiting and processing potential local employees to fill various job positions, access certification programs, and other skill trainings. It will be held at WIA facility Capitol Hill, in collaboration with the CNMI Labor Department on May 30 and 31, 2014 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The purpose is to assist and offer job opportunities to the local people, encourage local employment, and community productivity.

For more information please contact Rose at 287-2430 or Herman at 483-5155

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- Computer experience using Microsoft Applications

Some positions may also require a valid driver's license.

To apply, students must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents noted above, to the IT&E Human Resource office, located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters no later than Wednesday, June 11, 2014. **All inquiries must be made by the student, not the parent**. The student may call 234-6600.

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GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its Government and Business customer's that current billing of accounts are due on or before Thursday, **May 29, 2014**. Payments not received by close of business on May 29 will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Thursday, **May 29.** Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Thursday, **May 29**. Customers must pay any amount **NOT IN DISPUTE** to avoid disconnection.

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Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE will feature the PSS Heroes to Teachers Program today, May 28, 2014. Guests are Norman Deleon Guerrero, Rosa Jean Camacho, Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburgh, Marianas High School principal Cherlyn Cabrera, and MHS JROTC students.

The program will air live on TV Channel 14, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Replays on Monday, June 2, and Tuesday, June 3. The program also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

To participate in the discussion, contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call 287-9413; or text: 285-META (6382).

Next week, on June 4, John Gonzales LIVE will feature the topic "Understanding the Affordable Care Act: What applies, what does not in the CNMI." Guests include Kaitlyn Mocanu and Anna B. Santos of the ACA Consumer Advocate Program, Department of Commerce. ***(PR)***

USDA to conduct avian control at former U.S. Naval Hospital Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services will conduct avian control operations at the old U.S. Naval Hospital Guam building in Agana Heights on May 29, from 3am to 6:30am.

USDA personnel wearing orange safety vests and utilizing air pellet rifles will be on site to mitigate lingering birds at the former facility.

Residents and patrons in the surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the operation. ***(PR)***

Four candidates for this year's Liberation Day

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The four candidates who will be vying for this year's Liberation Day Queen tiara were introduced to the public yesterday in a pinning ceremony at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Mayor Donald Flores' wife Cecilia Flores, along with 2013 Liberation Queen Nicole Sablan, led Liberation Day committee members and parents in pinning the sashes on Pressel Camacho, Desiree Crisostomo, Rita Doca, and Gilitinan Ramangau.

Liberation Day Queen committee chair Joann Aquino, Liberation Day treasurer Terry Camacho, Flores, and Liberation Day overall chair Vincente Camacho also presented the candidates with the tickets that they will need to sell as part of the competition. The one who sells the most number of tickets wins.

The 2014 Liberation Queen candidates pose with 2013 Liberation Queen Nicole Sablan, center. From left to right, Pressel Camacho, Desiree Crisostomo, Sablan, Rita Doca, and Gilitinan Ramangau.
JAYSON CAMACHO

The candidates have until June 30 to sell the tickets, which cost $5 per booklet.

According to Terry Camacho, there are guidelines the candidates need to follow in selling the tickets. They can only sell Liberation Day raffle tickets, account for and report all sales of raffle tickets that has been assigned to them, and must submit their raffle tickets and any fundraising proceeds to the committee.

"Under Article 3 Section 1, 'unsold' tickets will be deducted from the tickets sold," Terry Camacho said.

Vincente Camacho said the candidates will be trained on how to interact with the public and introduce themselves to people. There will also be activities the candidates will be required to participate.

"Don't think about losing or winning. The point of this is not about winning but to have fun," Vincente Camacho said.

2013 Liberation Queen Sablan, 21, urged the candidates to always remain graceful and grateful whenever they are in the public and anywhere else.

"Continue to have fun as well and whether they win or not and no matter how they place, always remember to remain graceful and grateful," Sablan said.

Aquino told the candidates that the last date to deposit checks is on June 23.

The Liberation Day Committee is encouraging the public to support this year's batch of candidates.

Birthday fundraiser for House bet Angel Demapan

The Committee-to-Elect Angel Aldan Demapan will be holding a birthday fundraiser for Demapan this Friday, May 30, beginning at 6pm at the Garapan Central Park. Demapan is one of four Republican candidates running for House of Representatives in Precinct 1.

Tickets are $25 and include two free drinks, a sumptuous dinner, and live entertainment from local bands.

Esther Fejeran-Sound, fundraising chairperson, indicated that tickets to the event can either be purchased by contacting the Committee at 989-5770 or at the door upon arrival.

Demapan's committee is chaired by long-time Precinct 1 community advocate Roy Ada, with John M. Tagabuel as vice chairman; Geri Dela Cruz, treasurer; and Vina Saures, secretary.

"This event is going to be a wonderful occasion for everyone to enjoy each other's company as a community," said Ada. "It will also be a great opportunity for Angel to engage with supporters about his campaign to serve the people of the Commonwealth in the Legislature."

Demapan seeks to rebuild the spirit of community by reconnecting the Legislature to the villages.

"Legislation needs to be crafted responsibly and with full consideration of the people's needs," said Demapan. "As a lifelong resident of Precinct 1, I don't just know about the hardships of our people, I live those hardships with them. I have met with residents, old and young alike, and the common sentiment is apparent: stronger, safer, and healthier communities."

Demapan currently serves as the governor's press secretary. He managed the CNMI Medical Referral Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, from 2006 to 2010. Demapan also served in the U.S. Army National Guard and served in the first, second, and third CNMI Youth Congress, serving as speaker for two terms.

Demapan's campaign has launched a Facebook page and can be followed at www.facebook.com/angeldemapan2014. ***(PR)***

Online appointment system for GOAS

The Philippine Consulate General would like to inform the Filipinos in Guam and the CNMI that the Commission on Filipinos Overseas conducts the Guidance and Counseling Program for Filipino spouses, fiancé(é) and other partners of foreign nationals/former Filipino. Republic Act 10364 "An Act Expanding the Anti-Trafficking in Person Act of 2012" requires the conduct of mandatory counseling service for Filipinos in intermarriages. The GCP is also a requirement under the implementing rules of Republic Act 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In this connection, CFO is glad to inform interested parties that the GCP Online Appointment System at CFO Manila Office (http://gcp-appointment.cfo.gov.ph/) is now operational. The GOAS will enable spouses, fiancé(é) and other partners of foreign nationals/former Filipino to conveniently schedule online their attendance to the GCP. Meanwhile, the CFO Cebu Office will still continue to implement the walk-in, first-come-first-serve basis (i.e. no reservations needed) for their GCP sessions.

For more information about the GCP program, visit the website of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas www.cfo.gov.ph or contact Ivy D. Miravalles and Lucille A. Ronda at telephone number (632) 555-4740 or email address imiravalles@cfo.gov.ph. ***(PR)***

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Assistant Restaurant Manager (1): Responsible for managing the daily operations of the restaurant, includes assigning responsibilities to staff. In addition, must oversee the inventory and ordering of food and supplies, optimize profits and ensure that guests are satisfied with their dining experience, oversee and manage all areas of the restaurant and make final decisions on matters of importance to guest service. Enforce sanitary practices for food handling, general cleanliness, and maintenance of kitchen and dining areas. Ensure compliance with operational standards, company policies, federal/state/local laws, and ordinances. Be able to present oral & written reports to the Manager. Have basic Japanese oral skills and extensive knowledge of Japanese food products.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Assistant Cook (2): Responsible for preparing food as directed by a senior cook, assist the cook in the day to day preparation of food & efficient running of the kitchen. Ensure that all items are clean & ready for use before & after each shift, responsible for preparing items such as chopping vegetables, butchering meat, or cleaning seafood. Usually responsible for the storage of food, both incoming stock and leftovers.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends & night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

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On the islands of TINIAN an ROTA

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips, and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

TEACHER ACADEMY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's Teacher Academy program awards seven graduates who completed the education exploration course. From left, teacher Dianne Torres, Isa Tudela, Joni Castro, Chelsea Yangirelfil, Cathy Amandus, Edinna Cepeda, Keanah Deleon Guerrero and SSHS principal Jonathan Cabrera. Not in photo is Alaiza Basto.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga poses with his trophies and medal for Consistent Principal's List, Bible Trivia 1st Place, Academic Bee 2nd Place Regional Competition, and Perfect Attendance after Awards Day at Grace Christian Academy on May 27, 2014.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 12th birthday to Frantia Celyn Aguon Sablan, left, and happy 14th birthday to Danika Shaye Calvo Aguon. We love you both very much! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kean James Pajarillaga receives the Consistent Honor Roll award in 2nd grade and Perfect Attendance during the Awards Day at Grace Christian Academy on May 27, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Grace Christian Academy held its Awards Day on May 27, 2014, to recognize students with outstanding academic performances for the school year. Jason Steven Pixley and Mark Daniel Versoza are Consistent Honor Roll students in 10th grade.

May 27, 2006

'Don't touch our money'

That's how retirees summed up their sentiment on the proposal to have the NMI Retirement Fund write off the $123 million debt owed by the government and lend $40 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The Fund's Finance and Investment Committee held a public meeting Thursday night to discuss the Defined Benefit Rescue and Reform Act of 2006, a bill submitted by the administration to the Legislature. The meeting was attended mostly by retirees, although some active Retirement Fund members showed up. It lasted over two hours. During the meeting, retirees expressed strong opposition to forgiving the government's debt and providing CUC a new loan.

NMC qualifications bill is withdrawn

A House bill seeking higher educational qualifications for Northern Marianas College officials and legislative appropriation of NMC revenues has been withdrawn, according to the bill's author. Vice Speaker Justo S. Quitugua said yesterday that he had taken back House Bill 15-134 because of some technicalities. It is no longer an official bill of the House of Representatives. The bill was prefiled on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 and has not been formally introduced during a House session. The measure sought to require at least four of the seven members of the NMC Board of Regents to have a master's degree level of education, with the three other regents possessing at least a bachelor's degree.

May 27, 2007

NMI minimum wage hike OK'd

The CNMI's lowest-paid workers will be getting a 50-cent wage increase this July, after President Bush signed into law yesterday the bill approving the first minimum wage increase in the CNMI in 11 years. That 50-cent increase on July 24, which will raise the CNMI minimum wage of $3.05 an hour to $3.55 an hour, will kick off the nine-step increase of 50 cents every year that will eventually raise the CNMI minimum wage to the federal level of $7.25 an hour. The wage hike bill applies to both the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

NMI cervical cancer rate higher than mainland

The CNMI has some of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the world and is even higher than the figures from the U.S. mainland, according to a recent study by the Department of Public Health. DPH project officer Leticia Lochaby said the study showed that 42 women in the CNMI have been diagnosed with cervical cancer, with ages ranging from 25 to 34. Compared to the overall population, Lochaby said this is about five to seven time higher than the U.S. mainland. In the world, the CNMI belongs to the top five, she added. The data was disclosed during a news briefing held at the Chalan Kanoa Diocese Joeten Daidai Building in Susupe Friday morning. DPH Deputy Sec. Lynn Tenorio, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program program officer Tanya Belyeu-Camacho, and Fr. Ryan Jimenez joined Lochaby in the event.

May 27, 2008

CPA employees face pay cut

Employees at the Commonwealth Ports Authority are facing a 10-percent salary cut as the agency strives to reduce costs to meet its debt requirements. Beginning June 22, 2008, CPA personnel will work 72 hours every two-week period, acting executive director Lee Cabrera said in a memorandum. The ports authority has also suspended all hiring, overtime payment, pay hikes, promotions, and any reclassification that will mean additional costs to CPA. In addition, the agency has banned off-island travel, except for trips fully paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration. CPA is also keeping a tighter rein on inter-island trips; they will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the acting executive director and the acting comptroller.

Kilili throws hat into delegate ring

A third candidate has declared his bid to become the first Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Gregorio Sablan, executive director at the Commonwealth Election Commission, said he will run as an independent candidate. "This election is crucial," said Sablan. "Anybody who runs should carry the people's agenda, [as opposed to the agenda of any particular political party]." Details of his platform will be released later.

ESFDB holds eighth grade promotion ceremony

Junior high school can be like a ship. When students first come on board, they have to learn the ropes. Over the years, they have to brave some storms. Eventually, they have to disembark and take on new challenges, which is exactly what four students at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja did Friday, May 23, 2014.

"Strength for the Journey" is this year's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja Junior High graduation theme.

Valedictorian Angelica S. Lucero adopted the similarity of a boat metaphor during her address to the graduating ESFDB Eighth Grade Class of 2014.

Lucero remembered and elaborated on some of the storms she and her classmates endured during their elementary and junior high school years. She recalled that during their eighth grade year, one of her classmates had to relocate to Saipan. They had been together for the past eight years and did not graduate with them at ESFDB.

Salutatorian Metka Mendiola also praised the class's ability to work through hard times and praised the teachers for molding them and preparing them for high school.

Before the distribution of their diplomas, eighth grade adviser Edward Maratita Jr. presented the candidates for graduation to administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

Atalig accepted the candidates for graduation and applause and cheers from the audience ensued. The graduates threw their caps in the air as a symbol of celebration for accomplishing junior high.

After each student received their diploma, they were allowed to move their tassels from the left to the right side of their cap, to signify the completion of junior high school.

The eighth grade graduating class was composed of Loreville DlC. Clitar, Marnecia Hope B. Hocog, Angelica S. Lucero, and Metka C. Mendiola.

Special awards were handed out to the following students:

■ Marnecia Hope B. Hocog: Athletic Award.

■ Loreville DlC. Clitar: Presidential Award (Silver) and Athletic Award.

■ Angelica S. Lucero: Msgr. Louis Antonelli Award, Knights of the Altar Award, Leadership Award, Presidential Award (Gold), Athletic Award, and subjects award in Language Arts, Religion, Science, and Social Studies.

■ Metka C. Mendiola: Board of Directors Award, Presidential Award (Gold), Athletic Award, and subject award in Mathematics.

CNMI Public School System board member Denise Tanya King highlighted the day as the keynote speaker for the graduating class.

King is a parent of a successful ESFDB alumni, Samantha King Sablan, who graduated salutatorian in 1998. Sablan now runs a successful business in Guam.

King knows the hardship and success of sending a child to a Catholic school. She knows and understands how parents feel. And because she is very supportive of ESFDB, she provided a scholarship in the name of her granddaughter, called the Matea Grace King Sablan Scholarship. ***(ESFDB)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and Rota first lady Estrella Mendiola, Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja board members, PTO officers, administration, faculty and staff pose with the graduates.

Rota school holds kinder completion ceremony

Kindergartners of the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja proudly walked across the altar on May 22 in front of parents, families, and friends for their completion ceremony at the San Francisco de Borja Church.

The ceremony marked the completion of an important first step in the young students' education.

Each student's name was announced as he or she walked to the altar to receive a diploma from administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig, and was congratulated by Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, ESFDB board members Edward Maratita Jr., Estrella Mendiola and Lorenzo Barcinas, and ESFDB Parent Teacher Organization president Melanie Guiawan.

The ESFDB Kindergarten Class of 2014 was composed of Marco Edward B. Hocog, Diah A'Ina Q. Maratita, Edward U. Maratita III, and John Henry V. Tacud.

In addition special awards were handed out to the following students:

■ Marco Edward Hocog: Shining Star Award (Reading) and Saint Joseph Award.

■ Diah A'Ina Maratita: Shining Star Award (Reading), Most Improved Award and Saint Joseph Award.

■ Edward Maratita III: Super Reader Award (Reading) and Albert Einstein Award (Math).

■ John Henry Tacud: Star Reader Award (Reading) and Saint Joseph Award.

During the ceremony, the kindergarten students sang songs and each one was given the opportunity to say a few words of gratitude.

Administrator/principal and kindergarten class adviser Carmen H. Atalig had this to say to the parents: "I encourage you to stay involved and continue to provide great role models and great leadership for these young children as they go out and do great things over the next 12 years."

Recognition Day

Prior to the graduation, students from pre-school and grades first to eighth were recognized for their accomplishments this school year 2013-2014.

Principals List, Honor Roll A & B, subject awards, and special awards were handed out to deserving students who achieved outstanding academic performance for the school year.

The administration, faculty, and staff would like to extend their appreciation to the parents, Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, CNMI PSS board member Denise Tanya King, ESFDB board of directors, and PTO officers. ***(ESFDB)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig pose with the Kindergarten Class of 2014. From left, Edward U. Maratita III, Diah A'lna Q. Maratita, and Marco Edward B. Hocog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Henry V. Tacud poses with his sibling after being presented his kindergarten diploma in advance.

Green Meadow School honors students on Recognition Day

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top left photo: Guest speaker Escolastica Igitol Taitano Iguel delivers her remarks. Bottom left photo, from left to right: Escolastica Iguel and school officers pose with one of the awardees, Chealzka M. Navarro, 1st grade, with her parents and teacher. Right photo shows the audience.

The conclusion of school year 2013-2014 at Green Meadow School was celebrated on May 17, 2014, with the holding of the annual Recognition Day in the morning and graduation ceremonies in the afternoon.

During the Recognition program, students who made a mark during the school year were lauded onstage and rewarded with trophies, medals, or certificates of recognition.

Among the special guests who congratulated the students for their noteworthy accomplishments and achievements was the guest speaker, Escolastica Igitol Taitano Iguel, whose inspiring speech revolved around two of the most notable quotations on education: "Education is the kindling of a flame, not filling of a vessel" by Socrates and "The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one" by Malcom Forber. Part of Iguel's remark explained to the audience that education that treats students "as if they are empty-headed vessels devoid of ideas would have difficulty recognizing that each student is already filled with ideas that only require the right spark to converse their curiosity to learn or conflagration of opportunity to learn more and more ideas."

Awards and special recognitions were presented for both academics and extra-curricular activities which included A and B Honor, Citizenship Award, Leadership Award, Perfect Attendance, Best in Academics, and Most Outstanding Student. Successful participants in forensic competitions, STEM, Mathcourt, Academic Bee, spelling bee and other competitions were also presented with awards. The school management and staff congratulate all the students for their hard work and outstanding accomplishments during school year 2013-2014. ***(GMS)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Defending the Common Core school standards

In 2010, a who's who of American educators and politicians joined forces to spearhead a national initiative with wide appeal and few if any critics. It was called the Common Core.

The pols and educators agreed: Too many U.S. students breezed through weak state achievement tests, only to falter against tougher national and international assessments. Many students who reached college needed intensive tutoring.

The prescription: Create "a common set of high expectations for students across the country." State school superintendents, other education leaders and teachers nationwide would write tough national math and English standards.

For English, the Core standards suggest that students be exposed to "classic myths and stories from around the world, foundational U.S. documents, seminal works of American literature and the writings of Shakespeare." The standards stress reading comprehension, clear writing and vocabulary growth. There is no required reading list.

For math, "Rather than racing to cover many topics in a mile-wide, inch-deep curriculum, the standards ask math teachers to significantly narrow and deepen the way time and energy are spent in the classroom," the Common Core website says. This means focusing on skills and problem-solving using addition and subtraction through grade 2, multiplication and division in grades 3 to 5, progressing to algebra in grade 8 and higher concepts through high school.

The CEO of the National Parent-Teacher Association endorsed Common Core. So did the American Federation of Teachers. The National Education Association. Several governors. A top exec at consulting giant Accenture. The CEO of Intel. Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates. The Carnegie Foundation. The National Center for Learning Disabilities. The National Association of State Boards of Education. The 2010 Teacher of the Year. …

Eventually, 45 states embraced the Core. Over the last four years, however, that unified front has crumbled.

■ First, some Republicans defected after the Obama administration embraced the Common Core as part of its 2009 Race to the Top education sweepstakes. The political calculus: Obama is for it so we're against it. GOP defectors said the standards, while not a government production, nevertheless carried a strong whiff of federal intrusion into local schooling.

Indiana, after embracing the Common Core, recently scrapped the standards in favor of those "written by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers," Gov. Mike Pence said.

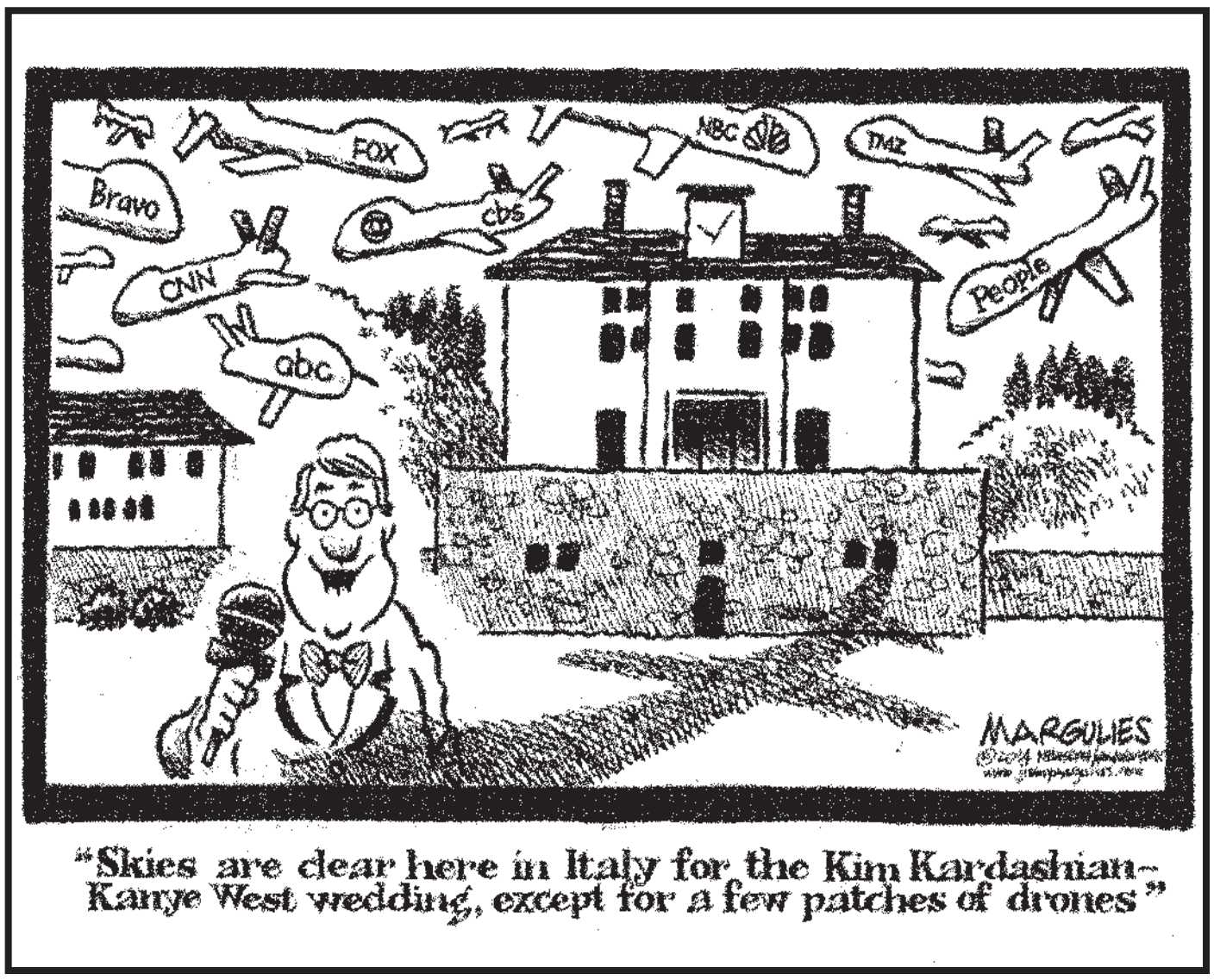
Iowa replaced the Common Core with "The Iowa Core." Florida lawmakers created Sunshine State standards that borrow heavily from the Core. Republican Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana want to establish their own standards. Other states, although not Illinois, are in various stages of revolt against the Common Core.

■ Now some teachers unions have joined that chorus. The Chicago Teachers Union demands that Illinois ditch the standards. CTU President Karen Lewis calls the Core "an overreach of federal power into personal privacy as well as into state educational autonomy." She and other union critics say that the Core stifles "creativity in the classroom"—and that tougher tests tied to the standards shouldn't be used to evaluate teachers.

Translated: Union leaders fear that more students will fail to clear the new statewide tests, and that their members will shoulder a huge share of the blame.

Reality: The Common Core does not dictate how teachers

See DEFENDING on Next Page



"Skies are clear here in Italy for the Kim Kardashian-Kanye West wedding, except for a few patches of drones"

Boko Haram

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

They come in various names, these splinter groups of the Islamic tradition who have gotten tired of the intrusion of Western (read, European and U.S.) methods into their native, and often, tribal affairs. Their social structures derive from *Sharia* the Islamic law, and though they come in names like al-Qaida and Taliban, al-Shabab and Abu Sayyaf, they are similar in the ideological claim that their social agenda promotes Islamic law, and from each a particular understanding of it.

One of the notable traits of the Congregation of the People of Tradition for Proselytism and Jihad *(Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad),* known by its Hausa name (a Nigerian ethnic and linguistic group) as Boko Haram, is precisely its absence of qualms in appropriating the name, meaning "Western education is sin." That translation at least allows for choice as "sin" is not determined even in the Judaic sense of the "original." Another translation is definitely declarative: "Western education is evil!" The last one brooks no appeal!

We are familiar with the Pashtun group of the Taliban *(*spelled *Taleban,* "students" of *Sharia)* who taught the world that Western exploitation of oil and mineral resources, whether it was out of Moscow or Washington, comes with a price. Boko Haram does not mince any goat meat in its attempt to stop Westernization, even with such folks as the non-political trades-only Chinese who were harassed recently out of North Cameroon while engaged in a government infrastructure project inadvertently along the Western model of development.

I flew in from London in the early '80s to Nigeria, our flight diverted to Kano Municipal because of a sandstorm that intersected the flight pattern. Noting the Spartan surroundings of the Hausas compared to the wild and glittery industrialization of my final destination, Lagos of the Yoruba, it was clear that the only reason the Federation was still together was the Western oil companies' stranglehold on the country, its military beholden to the British tradition. Yoruba imposed by the colonial masters is the national language; would we be surprised if the Hausas like Boko Haram took exception to that?

Kano still serves as the location of Northern Nigeria's International Airport, serving a large Lebanese population that keeps the Beirut traffic constant, and those heading for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Abuja at the geographical center of the country is Nigeria's Canberra (Australia) and Brasilia (Brazil), planned cities. The foreign quarters of Kano was virtually emptied when the state adopted Sharia in 2000. Three days ago, a Christian church in Kano's foreign quarters was bombed. The Christians are identified with the economically well-off and politically powerful Yoruba.

Even with the stillborn oil-rich Biafra Republic that plunged the country into a civil war in the late '60s getting drummed and pacified to remain in the union, the current Nigeria of colorful President Goodluck Jonathan is running out of luck and is unraveling at the seams, now with the high-profile Boko Haram abduction of school girls, and Abuja unable to do anything about it.

Several time zones away this week, the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan Island west of the southern island of Mindanao where U.S. foreign aid was shifted in the '70s, mostly in the form of military assistance, took a mother and her daughter in the capital town of Isabela, both identified as Chinese. They were abducted from their *karaoke* club, which was allegedly also a point of illicit trade in flesh and drugs. The victims are of Chinese descent who have since fuzzed the issue of nationality.

One out of five persons on the planet is of Chinese descent, though many had never been nor carry I.D.s identifying them with Beijing. That, however, is a minor detail when kidnapping Chinese for ransom in the Philippines. They are not abducted because they are Chinese, but because all Chinese are presumed to be loaded.

These diverse groups commonly claiming fealty to Sharia have become forces to contend with, especially in fossil fuel rich areas in Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. The patriarchy that rules its ranks is threatened by the egalitarian and democratic idealism of Western education, or, at least, the pretensions and hypocrisy of it all, which is on practice simply a matter of degree rather than kind among Western powers. The rule has become an object of dissent and protest for the downtrodden and disenfranchised. With the promise of heaven, along with waiting 72 virgins, warriors are self-immolating terrorists with very tragic consequences.

Sharia is the latest of the triumvirate from the Levant claiming its rightful place in humanity's social landscape, following the Torah's Ten Commandments, and NT's Sermon on the Mount. However, it is a mistake to keep labeling these groups as Islamic. It would be like calling any of the cultic branches of Christianity, particularly the puritanical promoters of Aryan supremacy, Christian. It only promotes inaccurate and vengeful stereotyping. We should rather look at what is "sinful" that Boko Haram and other dissident groups find in Western education.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CHC: Unraveling misinformation

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The rift between CHC's board and CEO isn't necessarily news, but when a doctor spouts misinformation that assumes epidemic proportions, it turns newsy!

For instance, Dr. Sherleen Osman, director of Medical Affairs, and cronies said that under Esther Muña's leadership positive changes were realized.

The ignorant would believe Dr. Osman under the presumption that she is a credible source given that she's a doctor. Not so fast, Dr. Osman, for we can "trust but still must verify" information.

Some 19 months ago, CHCC had a $5 million appropriation with a huge debt incurred by the new CEO. Ms. Muña was the beneficiary of millions of dollars from the CPE that was initiated and negotiated by former CEO, Juan N. Babauta with the regional director of Region IX.

Dr. Osman and medical staff ignore the fact that it was Babauta who bought critically needed equipment such as defibrillators using funds secured from MPLT. The certified lab with a pathologist was the work of the Commissioned Corp with funding from OIA. Ms. Muña was simply a beneficiary or recipient and not the innovator of funds for much needed equipment.

Appalling how doctors took sides without diagnosing the growing disease of misinformation. At day's end, it's sad the woefully poor prognosis. And the position they've taken without verification of information gets juicier as I dig my journalistic surgical knife deeper into the wound. I found out that they were given an advance 2013 Christmas presents in salary increases of between $15,000 to over $40,000.

Hey! Hey! Hey! With such generous increase I'd put the CEO's name on a huge billboard and parade up and down the hospital to the traffic lights praising Muña's generosity. I mean it takes blind courage giving chosen staff people huge salary increases while CHC incurs a $6 million deficit annually. Moreover, why was it limited to the favored few? Isn't a global increase the more appropriate thing to do?

The CEO doesn't enjoy the board raising a red flag—increase when the hospital is underwater in filthy thick red ink—and must have sought empathy from recipients of her ill-conceived fiscal decision. It should have dawned on the CEO that her action was the perfect recipe for bankruptcy. And doesn't the hospital also owe CUC some $11 million? Do you see the asymmetry in your decision?

Definitely, the board would be flagging the issue not because it wants to micro-manage CHC but because each member has a fiduciary duty to ensure adequate delivery of healthcare services with fiscal integrity. The fact that CHC could no longer look upstairs for legislative appropriations or anywhere else exacerbates the sensitivity and insecurity of future funding issues. In brief, it isn't in sound financial posture, meaning a fiscally poised system isn't in place.

Each is also mindful that at some point we'd all be using the facility. With this mind, we want to ensure that it is equipped with the wherewithal to help all patients consistently. I'm sure this too is the view of the CEO and doctors who came out waving the wrong surgical knives.

Policymaking at its lowest

"He who knows nothing is closer to the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehood and errors."—Thomas Jefferson.

When the elected elite is disoriented over fiduciary duties I was ready to dismiss it with "they'd learn sooner than later." It hasn't happened! The retarded setback is envenomed by the lack of decent understanding of relevant issues of substance adversely affecting the livelihood of people they represent. I'm sure most of you would be in agreement that policymaking is at its lowest in the developmental history of the NMI.

I'd take these guys and gals to task before Nov. 4th just to test their understanding of real issues. I'm sure most would be groping and struggling for answers. No worries! I'm tolerant, especially of the ignorant. Forgiving even with highly esteemed policymakers who can't figure out "what's north?" This is insult to injury, isn't it?

Can any of you honestly stick to what's known in Latin as "gravitas"—integrity to leadership—and declare your signature accomplishments that include major cuts in power bills, health insurance, price of basic goods, salary adjustments to aid underemployed folks; repayment of 25-percent cut in retirees' pension; an appropriation to cover health deductibles costing $1,000 per four-member families; or did you just ignore the entire nine yards?

MJ in lunacy land

"To know that you do not know is the best. To pretend to know when you do not know is a disease."—Lau Tzu.

Ambrose Bennett, the "educated" political scientist/economist, struggled to refute my views on marijuana and why it must be stopped dead in its track. His delusional and disoriented economic theory focuses on the so-called "economics" of MJ, completely ignoring the huge cost of health in subsequent years.

MJ leads to assorted cancer, brain damage, and heavy drugs, and encourages drug cartels to engage in violence for turf and profit. We can't even send our medical referees because of budgetary shortfall and you callously wish to add to this list? That you're not an MD but equipped with the gall to push destruction makes your spout a "disease"!

His woefully shortsighted view is best described by an intelligent blogger who said, "In life if you were to make the right decisions, all you need are two things: 1) A good vision, and 2) Good common sense. Ambrose your article is the most idiotic I have ever read! WHAT MJ? Don't even go there and call yourself an economist!"

I don't mind debating the power of ideas that would constructively enhance the wellbeing of our community. Delusional and ghetto type economic plans such as Bennett's are best left in the trash bin for transfer to the landfill up north. Leave MJ in lunacy land!

To achieve the American dream, mind the opportunity gap

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Ever since the financial crash of 2008, we've been having an anxious national debate about the growing income gap. What does it mean for American society when most workers' wages are flat and almost all economic gains flow to the top 1 percent—or to the top one-tenth of 1 percent?

But it's a discussion that too often turns into a sterile squabble over economic theology between liberal populists, who want to tax the rich, and supply-siders, who say that cutting taxes will add jobs, reward entrepreneurship and raise all boats.

So maybe it would be helpful to set the problem of the income gap aside for a while and focus instead on a problem everyone can agree on: the opportunity gap.

The American dream is the idea that anyone can get ahead in life with talent and hard work. But that ideal of wide-open opportunity has been dented quite a bit in the economic stagnation of the last few years.

And that's a problem that Republicans as well as Democrats recognize.

"What I believe unites the people of this nation … is the simple, profound belief in opportunity for all—the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead," President Obama said in his State of the Union address this year. "Let's face it: that belief has suffered some serious blows."

"The income gap gets the headlines," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, in a speech last week. "But it's the opportunity gap that should concern us all."

In recent months, Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and other potential GOP presidential candidates have made a point of calling for a new conservative agenda to help the poor and the struggling middle class. Their ideas all build around the emollient idea of increasing opportunity for everyone.

"If we focus on the question of opportunity, the two political parties may actually be able to have a respectful, fact-based discussion, even though they obviously won't agree on every solution," said William A. Galston, a former Clinton aide now at the Brookings Institution.

If only it were that easy.

But here's a starting point for that discussion: education.

Education has long been the traditional route to opportunity for American families of modest means. But a growing educational achievement gap between low-income and affluent kids is making that path both harder and less accessible.

And the gap is getting wider, mostly because wealthy kids' test scores have been improving dramatically while middle-class kids' have improved only slightly over time. "The top has pulled away from the middle," says Sean Reardon of Stanford's Graduate School of Education.

Strikingly, much of that income differential in test scores shows up among kids who are tested in the first months of kindergarten, before they've spent significant time in school. "It's preschool," Reardon said, along with "the out-of-school environment, that creates the gap." Affluent kids are far more likely to get a good preschool education and have parents who read to them and nurseries full of educational toys.

And the gap only widens from there. Other scholars found in 2006, that parents in the top one-fifth of households spent about $7,500 more each year on their children—on child care, tutors, after-school programs and athletics—than households in the bottom fifth. Much of that spending, of course, was designed to improve kids' chances of getting into a good college, the biggest tollbooth on the opportunity trail.

Canadian writer Chrystia Freeland calls this "the educational arms race."

"We're all going to do everything we can for our kids, of course; there's no way to stop that," she told me. "But it creates a huge difference in where people are at the starting line."

One obvious way to address the problem would be with free, high-quality preschool for all children. Thirty states have already established universal preschool programs, including conservative Oklahoma and Georgia.

So far, Republicans in Congress have resisted Obama's proposal for a federal program that would help fund pre-K programs across the entire country. But if they start seeing results from states that aren't controlled by Democrats, perhaps they can be brought around.

Another important element for leveling the educational playing fields is community colleges, which have historically been a route both to four-year degrees and to better jobs for low-income students.

But community colleges are struggling in both blue and red states. During the recession, states made deep cuts in their funding. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported this month that state spending on both two-year and four-year public colleges has declined 23 percent per student since 2007.

Providing universal preschool and improving community colleges won't close the opportunity gap. But with both parties agreeing that the gap needs attention, they might provide a starting point for creative politicians to find some common ground—and even to seize an opportunity.

DEFENDING

From Page 10

teach, or set a rigid curriculum for students. The curriculum remains firmly in the hands of teachers, principals and local school boards.

"The Common Core tells me what my students should master before they leave my classroom—it is the destination," Pam Reilly, a second-grade teacher at Woodbury Elementary in Sandwich and the 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year, tells us. "The journey of teaching to reach that destination is up to me." As it should be.

We've talked to other teachers who chafe at Core standards and complain that they're too vague. But in a February poll, more than 7 in 10 Chicago Public School teachers who responded said they believed Common Core would lead to more college success for their students. That was a resounding vote of confidence in the Core.

We agree that teachers need freedom to decide how best to reach their students. But that's a good reason to make sure teachers have the support they need to make the standards work, not to scrap them before they gain traction.

Former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, one of the original Core backers in 2010, summarized the backlash: "There is a great deal of paranoia in the country today," he told The New York Times. "It's the two Ps, polarization and paranoia."

Lest the Core critics forget, there's a third P: Pupils. A single set of high national standards lets everyone—teachers, principals and parents—know where students stand and, more important, what all of us can do to help them succeed.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

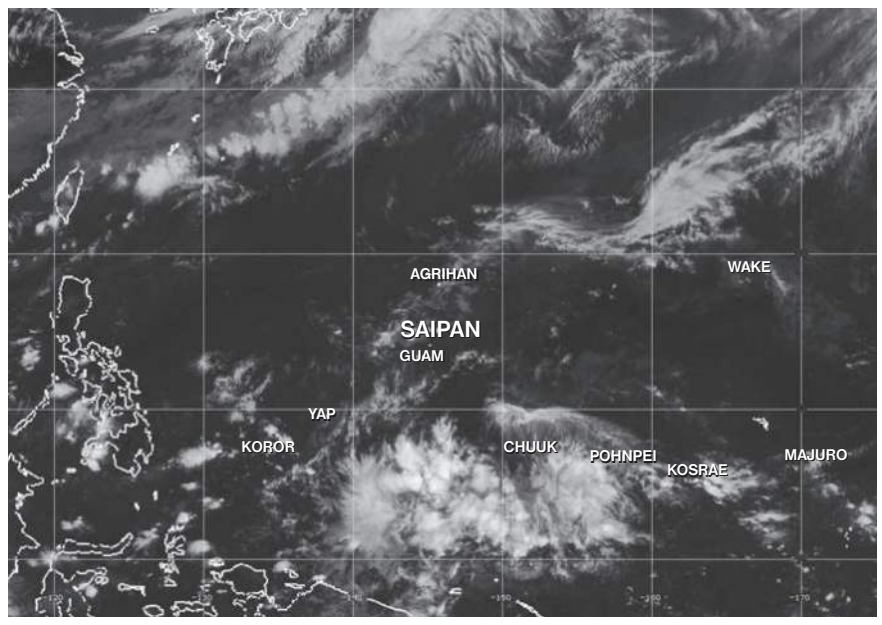
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲104	▼69
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼63
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲92	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼43
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
New York	Showers	▲65	▼55
Osaka	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Salem	Rain	▲64	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼56
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A broad trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from southeast of Yap to south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 7N from 139E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from near Kosrae to just south of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 6N163E to 2N177E. A surface trough extends northwestward from 16N170E to 19N164E. Scattered showers are present over Wake Island along and up to 200 miles northeast of the trough axis.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
9:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:10 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	7:07 PM
Friday	6:49 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	7:39 AM	8:45 PM
Sunday	8:29 AM	9:31 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

A solemn obligation

By ELOY S. INOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Eloy S. Inos is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Editor's Note: The following is text of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' speech at the Memorial Day ceremony in Marpi on May 26, 2014.

Before I begin, I'd like to take a moment to recognize our veterans here with us today from all branches of our Armed Forces. I'd also like to greet, if they are here today, our Guam National Guard members from the Northern Marianas. Last Memorial Day, I asked those present to pray for your safety while you were away, and it's good to see that those prayers kept you safe during your deployment and brought you back home.

Hafa adai, tirow, and good morning!

On this solemn Monday morning, we come to pay homage to those who gave their all for all of us. Today, we come to pay our respects to the beloved souls who lie in this cemetery and to all who selflessly gave their lives in defense of our way of life. This commemoration brings with it an even more special feeling as we also prepare to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian this year.

Memorial Day brings with it a plethora of emotions. For some, it brings a feeling of sorrow, thinking of loved ones who are no longer with us that for some to this day, still mourn. For others, it brings a sense of pride, pride in knowing that when the going gets tough, there were people who stood in the face of adversity and were brave enough to defend us, knowing the danger that awaited them.

But for all of us today, we share one trait when Memorial Day comes around, and that trait is the desire to give honor for their heroism and selflessness. The men and women that we honor today are a mixed and diverse bunch of individuals, each serving at a different point in history against many different enemies. Some buried here fought seven decades ago in liberating our islands, several from the Marine Scouts, some in Korea, others in Vietnam, some fought in Desert Storm, while others supported the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. What they differed from each other in life is what unites them in death, that when our people needed them, they were there ready to fight against our adversaries.

In our tiny islands, we see ourselves as one family unit. For many of us, these people were our relatives. To some, they were more than that. They were our sons, our daughters, our companions.

Some of them we even saw grow up before our eyes to become better over time, yet didn't live enough to see how their lives would turn out, or how they would be remembered. But they will forever be memorialized, through the stories shared by their spouses, their children, their relatives, and their friends. Though we cannot see them, we can be assured that they will live on through every single man and woman who puts on a uniform in service of our country.

And we can further rest assured that their legacies will be carried on by their battle buddies, the veterans who still serve us today, and who have served us in the past. Though we wish they were still with us now, we can take solace that through their bravery, we have gained guardians who now protect us from above from the same dangers that still threaten us in this time.

This morning, we join as a proud and grateful nation to honor the brave buried in this field, as well as all our region's fallen heroes as a reminder of just what kind of people we are, a people who will not stand for injustice, a people ready to be called upon when needed, to help those who need it most. And we will continue to be this way until every weapon is put down, and when every citizen of this planet can finally live in what we call here in the islands, *inafa'måolek*, peace and harmony.

In a way of summing up everything here today, I'd like to leave you with a quote from a military man who oversaw the fighting done here 70 years ago. His name was Adm. Chester Nimitz. It goes:

"They fought together as brothers in arms; they died together and now they sleep side by side...To them, we have a solemn obligation—the obligation to ensure that their sacrifice will help make this a better and safer world in which to live."

As one family, as one community, let us continue to fulfill this obligation today, tomorrow, as long as we can.

May God bless us all. *Olomwaay, si yu'os ma'ase',* and thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An open letter to members of the Legislature

It has been over 25 years since Article 12 came about, and it is time that it is either abolished or amended to give NMDs the right to voluntarily opt out of its restrictions and limitations.

Article 12 was initially created under the assumption that, as a newly formed U.S. self-governing society, we needed to be safeguarded from being exploited by sophisticated outsiders. The idea was to keep us from being exploited into landlessness. I find this assumption insulting, but nevertheless, it was conceptualized with good intention.

Today, over 27 years later, Article 12 only benefits the few wealthy NMDs who are amassing cheap land all over the Commonwealth at the expense and loss of the desperate NMDs. Article 12 does not protect NMDs. In fact, it forces NMDs to part with their land at a very low gain because the pool of buyers is very limited by Article 12. NMDs that are faced with emergencies such as catastrophic illnesses are forced to sell their most valuable asset, land, at a pittance. Without Article 12, a landowner in an emergency may be able to get a mortgage loan from a bank instead of selling his or her land since banks will be more willing to loan because of a larger pool of bidders in a potential foreclosure. Furthermore, Article 12 does not benefit any NMD by continuing the fallacy that we are an uneducated, weak, and vulnerable people who cannot make decisions for ourselves. It gives government control over our private property, robbing us of our freedom not only to sell but to give as an inheritance our land to whomever we please.

You passed a legislative initiative to be voted on this coming election, but your proposed amendment does not help heal the division between NMDs and non-NMDs. I am appalled that you have proposed to eliminate legally adopted non-NMDs regardless of age from inheriting or owning land from their NMD parents. At least the present law allows adopted non-NMDs below the age of 18 to be considered NMDs to inherit their adopted parents' land. In Chamorro custom, even a non-adopted person in the household under the concept of "Poksai" traditionally inherits land. An individual or a couple adopt because they consider that child their own child and want to give the same rights and benefits as if they gave birth to such child. They should rightfully be treated the same as the natural-born child or children of the family.

Those in opposition will argue that Article 12 protects NMD parents from being scammed by non-NMD children (I will refrain from addressing the lunacy of that sentence and address it for those who believe it). I have heard claims that Article 12 protects against fraudulent inheritances by non-NMD children. To the contrary, all this racist amendment will do is prevent a parent from leaving land to their non-NMD children even though that is the parent's will and wish, and even though all of the family accept and treat the adopted child as an NMD and a true member of the family. If there are fraudulent transactions out there, it is illegal regardless of Article 12, regardless of NMD ancestry, and that's what the probate, civil, and criminal courts are there to handle, not Article 12. Restricting adopted children from owning land through their NMD parents because of a few extraordinary and not typical potential fraudulent acts (that law already prohibits) is like banning people from driving because a few people break the law and drive recklessly, causing accidents. Instead of dealing with the lawbreakers, we punish even the innocent. There are already laws against fraud and abuse of signing documents while incompetent. Article 12 has no role in that and should not be used to punish adoptive parents and innocent adopted children. Period. How shameful that this is potentially going to be the new law!

Article 12 is established so that we have time to educate ourselves in land transactions. However, it appears to be taking on the shape of racism under the guise of cultural preservation. To this date, none of the proponents for keeping Article 12 is able to explain what they mean by protection of our land and culture. Remember that NMDs are a mixture of Chamorro, Chukese, Kosraeans, Marshallese, Pohnpeians, Palauans, Yapese, Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Spanish, Germans, Filipinos, and Americans. NMDs are not only Carolinians and Chamorros. The argument of cultural preservation is a fallacy.

Culture is dynamic and is always changing. The Carolinians have their culture; the Chamorros have their culture and the other culture of NMDs continues. Article 12 has nothing to do with their preservations.

If you want to preserve your land for your children, is Article 12 necessary to compel you to keep it? No. You do not need Article 12 to decide what to do with your land, who to give it to, who to leave it to, or who to sell it to. Instead, Article 12 restricts those basic freedoms. Without Article 12, at the very least you would be better off being able to get more money if you decide to sell because of an emergency need or get a bank loan using your land as collateral for loans which the banks at present are wary of because of Article 12.

If you still think that Article 12 is necessary, give the option of opting out on the restriction and limitations of Article 12 by passing a legislative initiative to amend Article 12 using the same version being circulated by CCART. Let the voters decide. NMDs, who favor keeping Article 12, can keep it and continue the restrictions and limitations it imposes on their land. NMDs, who want to be lifted from the restrictions and limitations of Article 12, can opt out of it as specified in the proposed amendment. Even if the amendment by CCART passed, those NMDs who like Article 12 can still keep Article 12. Only those NMDs who want to opt out will be affected.

Let's stop this nonsense of cultural purity that borders on racism. All non-NMDs who have made the CNMI their home deserve the same human right to be landowners. Let's stop the notion that non-NMDs will always exploit NMDs because NMDs are unsophisticated and dumb.

I believe that each landowner should be the absolute decision maker on what to do with their land. Please help CCART get their petition passed through a legislative initiative.

Joseph Ito Pangelinan
Landowner and supporter of CCART petition
Garapan, Saipan

Our leaders vs voters

It is getting very obvious the governor is on the ropes and likely out as a common saying is "Elect anyone but Inos." But I'm also wondering when voters will say enough when it comes to our Legislature. The final straw for me was when the Lower House refused to let the people decide on Article 12 when it is their constitutional right. How dare they tell the people they can't vote on something proposed by one of the people's representatives! First they violate the no casino vote, now they are telling us all we can't have a say in matters!

Everyone knows this law is trampling on the rights of people on both sides of the issue but the Legislature won't even let the people decide. Locals can't be the masters of their own fate under Article 12 and decide who they will sell to, forcing many locals to be victimized by local speculators. Then there are the mainland citizens who are being forced to be a renter class with no home to retire in or pass on to their children. I would like to believe the majority of locals are willing to change Article 12 to meet the expectations of the principles of equality among citizens and locals' right to free enterprise (the right to sell their land to any U.S. citizen). Article XII doesn't have to be destroyed, just fixed! Whatever happened to the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you? With six referendums and two initiatives being circulated the people have said to hell with you guys in the Legislature and declared war to get it done ourselves!

As for the ferry feasibility cancellation, it is just another "I told you so" for me. I predicted the ferry would never become a reality and now it is dead! I also don't believe the feds refused to fund the study when they already said they would and we even had the money. Something is not right again! This reminds me of the old *tell one lie story* and you have to keep telling more lies to try and cover up the first lie—if you were ever a child you know exactly what I'm talking about. The mayor of Tinian and everyone else trusted the governor's lip-service on the ferry, instead of listening to and weighing the facts I was revealing and now the mayor and many voters on Saipan and Tinian are upset. If they had listened to me we could have gotten a ferry for free and run it two or even three years between Saipan and Tinian before having to spend a single dime on fuel. The governor told people half-truths that were really whole lies just to save his casinos!

It is truly sad that the people only find out and realized how they have been screwed again! But the saving grace is if we legalize marijuana, we will have the money to fix our economy and purchase as many ferries as we need because we know the tourists numbers are going to explode. A public ferry service will be a small and easy thing to accomplish if we legalize it and much more lucrative than casinos. We already have pot growing in almost every village and the only way to really control marijuana is through limited legalization measures by law.

P.S.: The representatives and senators who voted against the casino may be the only ones spared by the voters who are fed up with our leaders and their disrespectful tactics. The only ones we can trust: Senators Manglona, Jovita, Cruz, and Yumul. Representatives Joseph DL Guerrero, Ralph Yumul, Francisco Dela Cruz, George Camacho, Janet Maratita, Edumund Villagomez, and Trenton Conner.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Business

Medicaid surge triggers cost concerns for states

WASHINGTON (AP)—From California to Rhode Island, states are confronting new concerns that their Medicaid costs will rise as a result of the federal health care law.

That's likely to revive the debate about how federal decisions can saddle states with unanticipated expenses.

Before President Barack Obama's law expanded Medicaid eligibility, millions of people who were already entitled to its safety-net coverage were not enrolled. Those same people are now signing up in unexpectedly high numbers, partly because of publicity about getting insured under the law.

For states red or blue, the catch is that they must use more of their own money to cover this particular group.

In California, Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown's recent budget projected an additional $1.2 billion spending on Medi-Cal, the state's version of Medicaid, due in part to surging numbers. State officials say about 300,000 more already-eligible Californians are expected to enroll than was estimated last fall.

"Our policy goal is to get people covered, so in that sense it's a success," said state legislator Richard Pan, a Democrat who heads the California State Assembly's health committee. "We are going to have to deal with how to support the success."

AP

This Jan. 23, 2013 file photo shows California State Assemblyman Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, center, at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

Online exchanges that offer subsidized private insurance are just one part of the health care law's push to expand coverage. The other part is Medicaid, and it has two components.

First, the law allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility to people with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line, about $16,100 for an individual. Washington pays the entire cost for that group through 2016, gradually phasing down to a 90 percent share. About half the states have accepted the offer to expand coverage in this way.

But whether or not a state expands Medicaid, all states are on the hook for a significantly bigger share of costs when it comes to people who were Medicaid-eligible under previous law. The federal government's share for this group averages about 60 percent nationally. In California, it's about a 50-50 split, so for each previously eligible resident who signs up, the state has to pony up half the cost.

There could be many reasons why people didn't sign up in the past.

They may have simply been unaware. Some may not have needed coverage. Others see a social stigma attached to the program for those with the lowest incomes. But now virtually everyone in the country is required to have coverage or risk fines. That's more motivation to come forward.

"It's not a bad thing that we are opening a door that should have been open before," said Judy Solomon of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for the poor.

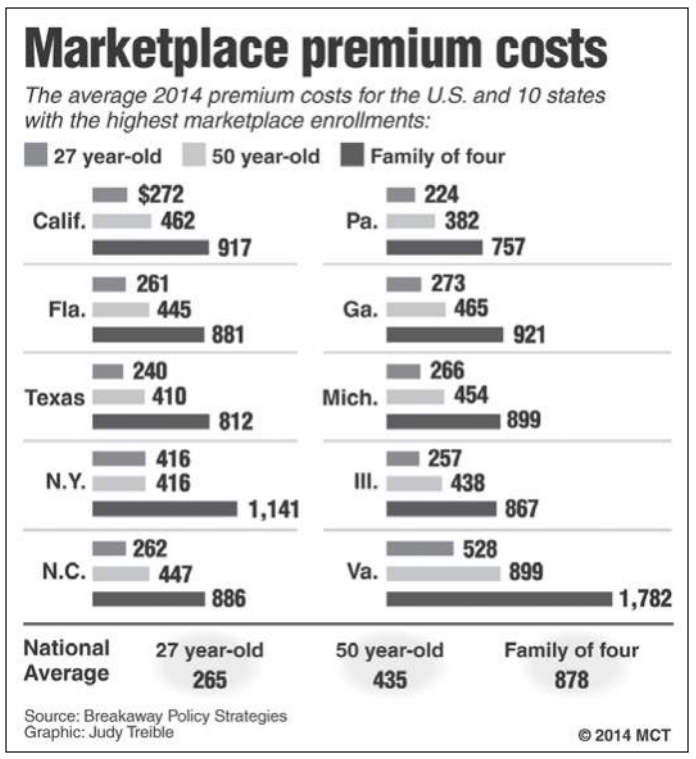
The budget consequences are real.

"Clearly we are going to need to do our best to make sure we are working within the budget we are given," said Deidre Gifford, Rhode Island's Medicaid director.

States always expected that some previously eligible people would sign up, but Gifford said her state enrolled 5,000 to 6,000 more than it had projected.

In Washington state, people who were previously eligible represent about one-third of new Medicaid enrollments, roughly 165,000 out of a total of nearly 483,000. But state officials say they are treating that as a preliminary number, and the true net increase may be lower once they factor in people who drop out of the program for a host of reasons, such as getting a job with coverage.

Governors in California, Rhode Island, and Washington all strongly supported the health care law. Their outreach campaigns to promote sign-ups overall probably contributed to drawing out uninsured residents who already were entitled to Medicaid.


Marketplace premium costs
The average 2014 premium costs for the U.S. and 10 states with the highest marketplace enrollments:
27 year-old
50 year-old
Family of four
Calif. $272 462 917
Pa. 224 382 757
Fla. 261 445 881
Ga. 273 465 921
Texas 240 410 812
Mich. 266 454 899
N.Y. 416 416 1,141
Ill. 257 438 867
N.C. 262 447 886
Va. 528 899 1,782
National Average
27 year-old 265
50 year-old 435
Family of four 878
Source: Breakaway Policy Strategies
Graphic: Judy Treible
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China to take 5 million older vehicles off roads

BEIJING (AP)—China's government plans to take 5 million older, polluting vehicles off the road this year in an effort to revive stalled progress toward cleaning up smog-choked cities.

The plan also calls for filling stations in Beijing, Shanghai and other major urban areas to switch to selling only the cleanest grades of gasoline and diesel, according to a Cabinet statement issued Monday.

The order comes after China failed to meet official pollution-reduction goals for 2011-2013, the statement said. It said vehicles registered before 2005 that fail to meet cleaner emissions standards will be "phased out," though it did not say how.

It called the country's environmental situation "extremely grim."

China's major cities are smothered in eye-searing smog. The country has some of the world's strictest emissions standards, but authorities have refrained from enforcing them until now to avoid forcing older, pollution-belching trucks off the road and hurting small businesses.

Monday's announcement suggests authorities have settled that conflict in favor of environmental protection following reports on the mounting health and economic costs of pollution.

China has about 240 million vehicles on the road, and half are passenger cars, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

China is the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold. Sales rose 15.7 percent last year to 17.9 million vehicles. Sales growth is slowing but analysts still expect an increase of 8 to 10 percent this year.

Prosecutors: Hacker helped thwart 300 cyberattacks

NEW YORK (AP)—A prolific computer hacker who infiltrated the servers of major corporations later switched sides and helped the government disrupt hundreds of cyberattacks on Congress, NASA and other sensitive targets, according to federal prosecutors.

New York prosecutors detailed the cooperation of Hector Xavier Monsegur for the first time in court papers while asking a judge to reward him with leniency at his sentencing Tuesday. They credited Monsegur with helping them cripple Anonymous, the notorious crew of hacktivists who stole confidential information, defaced websites and temporarily put some victims out of business.

Working around the clock with FBI agents at his side, Monsegur "provided, in real time, information about then-ongoing computer hacks and vulnerabilities in significant computer systems," prosecutors wrote. The FBI estimates he helped detect at least 300 separate hacks, preventing millions of dollars in losses, they added.

After his arrest and guilty plea in 2011, Monsegur faced more than two decades behind bars. But because of his cooperation, the sentence could be two years or less.

Court papers say Monsegur first began hacking in a Manhattan apartment in the early 2000s. His aim then was to steal credit card information, then sell it or use it to pay his own bills.

In a 2011 interview with an online magazine, Monsegur said he decided to join forces with Anonymous because he was upset over the arrest of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

"I'm just doing what I know how to do, and that is counter abuse," he said.

Starting in early 2011 and using the alias Sabu, Monsegur led an Anonymous splinter group called Lulz Security, or LulzSec, which hacked computer systems of Fox television, Nintendo, PayPal and other businesses, stole private information and then bragged about it online. The group was loosely affiliated with Jeremy Hammond, the FBI's most wanted cybercriminal whose stated objective was to cause mayhem with the attacks, prosecutors said.papers said.

When FBI agents showed up at his home in the summer of 2011, Monsegur immediately agreed to cooperate, giving the FBI a tutorial on the inner-workings and participants of LulzSec and Anonymous, prosecutors said. Under their direction, he "convinced LulzSec members to provide him digital evidence of the hacking activities" and "asked seemingly innocuous questions that ... could be used to pinpoint their exact locations and identities," court papers said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pfizer pulls plug on push to buy AstraZeneca

Pfizer said Monday that it does not intend to make a takeover offer for British drugmaker AstraZeneca, pulling the plug for now on what would have been the largest deal in the industry's history. The announcement came a week after AstraZeneca's board rejected a $119 billion buyout proposal from Pfizer, the world's second-biggest drugmaker by revenue. The decision ends a bid that had raised concerns about the prospect of job cuts, facility closings and losing science leadership in the U.K. , where London-based AstraZeneca is the second-biggest drugmaker behind GlaxoSmithKline PLC. *(AP)*

India's oldest car factory shelves elite sedan

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's oldest car factory has abruptly suspended production of the hulking Ambassador sedan that has a nearly seven-decade history as the car of the Indian elite. It was unclear how long manufacturing will be on hold, but Kolkata-based Hindustan Motors said Monday it hopes to resume making the so-called "Amby" after a period of restructuring and clearing of its debts. The heavy car's large size and poor gas mileage have driven customers to cheaper competitors from abroad. About 80 percent of cars sold in India today are small cars that can maneuver in crowded cities and that cater to a rising middle class eager for wheels without costs.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,606.27	1,900.53	4,185.81
+63.19	+8.04	0.00
+0.38%	+0.42%	0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0793	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7527	Philippine Peso	43.7256
British Pound	0.5932	Indian Rupee	59.0141	Singapore Dollar	1.2554
Canadian Dollar	1.084	Indonesian Rupiah	11577.84	South Korean Won	1023.36
Chinese Yuan	6.2513	Japanese Yen	101.8248	Swiss Franc	0.8949
Euro	0.7327	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2167	Taiwan Dollar	30.1265
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1686	Thailand Baht	32.5967

Nation

Obama leads country in celebrating Memorial Day

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama led the nation in commemorating Memorial Day, declaring the United States has reached "a pivotal moment" in Afghanistan with the end of war approaching.

Obama, who returned just hours earlier from a surprise visit with U.S. troops at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, paid tribute to those lost in battle there and elsewhere over history. He called them "patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice" for their country.

"Early this morning, I returned from Afghanistan," Obama told the audience of several thousand people. "Yesterday, I visited with some of our men and women serving there—7,000 miles from home. For more than 12 years, men and women like those I met with have borne the burden of our nation's security. Now, because of their profound sacrifice, because of the progress they have made, we're at a pivotal moment."

"Our troops are coming home. By the end of this year, our war in Afghanistan will finally come to end," the president said to applause. "And yesterday at Bagram, and here today at Arlington, we pay tribute to the nearly 2,200 American patriots who've made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. We will honor them, always." Obama has said it was likely that a small contingent of U.S. forces would stay behind for counter-terrorism missions, as well as to train Afghan security forces.

The president made a fleeting reference to the widening scandal involving reports of poor performance by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is facing allegations of delayed treatments, and even deaths in Arizona.

"As we've been reminded in recent days—we must do more to keep faith with our veterans and their families, and ensure they get the care and benefits and opportunities that they've earned and that they deserve," said the president.

"These Americans have done their duty," Obama said. "They ask nothing more than that our country does ours—now and for decades to come," he added, drawing more applause.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, a retired Army general, was among those attending the ceremony. Lawmakers from both parties have pressed for policy changes and better management at the department.

AP

From left, Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and President Barack Obama, stand as the National Anthem is played during a Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Monday, May 26, 2014.

About the VA

Forty veterans reportedly died while awaiting treatment from the Phoenix VA Health Care System, and VA officials may have intentionally destroyed a related waiting list. Profile of the agency amid the crisis:

Background, mission and leadership

- **Founded as the Veterans Administration** in 1930 when the Veterans Bureau, Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department and National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were consolidated
- **Raised to Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs** in 1989
- **Mission** To administer veterans' benefits, including health services, scholarships, home loans, insurance, pensions and burial services
- **Cabinet secretary** Eric Shinseki

VA medical facilities As of 2013

152	800	126
Hospitals	Community-based outpatient clinics	Nursing home facilities

Veteran population

2013, by war era, in millions

World War II	1.25
Korean War	2.07
Vietnam	7.33
Gulf War*	6.48
Peacetime	5.50

Total 21.9 million

*Includes Afghan and Iraq veterans

NOTE: Some served in more than one era

VA budget

2013, by category, in billions

Other	4.4
Operating costs	6.9
Education, vocational training	11.9
Medical care	56
Compensation, pension	63.6

Total $142.8 billion

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Experts: Mass murderers are hard to predict

GOLETA, Calif. (AP)—Colorado movie theater shooter James Holmes. Sandy Hook school attacker Adam Lanza. And now Elliot Rodger.

All were young loners with no criminal history who went on shooting sprees, leaving devastated families in their wake.

Mass murderers tend to have a history of pent-up frustration and failures, are socially isolated and vengeful, blaming others for their unhappiness, experts say.

"They all display deluded thinking and a lot of rage about feeling so marginalized," James Garbarino, a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago, said in an email.

Since mass killings are rare, scholars say there's no way to predict who has deadly intentions, let alone who will reach a breaking point and take action.

Past violence is a clue, but in Rodger's case, police did not see him as a threat to himself or others during a welfare check weeks before Friday night's rampage near the University of California, Santa Barbara that left six victims dead and 13 injured.

Rodger died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head after a shootout with deputies, ending a night of terror in this tight-knit seaside campus community as the semester drew to a close.

Pinpointing a mass killer "is not an exact science. We don't have a foolproof way of predicting" who will turn violent, said Risdon Slate, a professor of criminology at Florida Southern College.

Before Rodger stabbed three male UCSB students in his apartment and cruised around in his black BMW firing at sorority girls and strangers, he left a trail of YouTube videos and a 140-page manifesto ranting against women and couples and lamenting his lack of a sex life.

In his postings, Rodger, a 22-year-old community college student and son of a Hollywood director, said he was a lonely and frustrated virgin.

"I'm sexually attracted to girls. But girls are not sexually attracted to me. And there's a major problem with that—a major problem. That's a problem that I intend to rectify. I in all my magnificence and power, I will not let this fly. It's an injustice that needs to be dealt with," Rodger said in one of the videos.

Recent mass shootings involved young men described as loners who had trouble fitting in.

US plants prepare long-term nuclear waste storage

WATERFORD, Conn. (AP)—Nuclear power plants across the United States are building or expanding storage facilities to hold their spent fuel—radioactive waste that by now was supposed to be on its way to a national dump.

The steel and concrete containers used to store the waste on-site were envisioned as only a short-term solution when introduced in the 1980s. Now they are the subject of reviews by industry and government to determine how they might hold up—if needed—for decades or longer.

With nowhere else to put its nuclear waste, the Millstone Power Station overlooking Long Island Sound is sealing it up in massive steel canisters on what used to be a parking lot. The storage pad, first built in 2005, was recently expanded to make room for seven times as many canisters filled with spent fuel.

Dan Steward, the first selectman in Waterford, which hosts Millstone, said he raises the issue every chance he can with Connecticut's congressional members.

"We do not want to become a nuclear waste site as a community," Steward said.

The government is pursuing a new plan for nuclear waste storage, hoping to break an impasse left by the collapse of a proposal for Nevada's Yucca Mountain. The Energy Department says it expects other states will compete for a repository, and the accompanying economic benefits, and it's already heard from potential hosts in New Mexico, Texas and Mississippi. But the plan faces hurdles including a need for new legislation that has stalled in Congress.

So plants are preparing to keep the high-level nuclear waste in their backyards indefinitely. Most of it remains in pools, which cool the spent fuel for several years once it comes out of the reactors. But with the pools at or nearing capacity, the majority is expected within a decade to be held in dry casks, or canisters, which are used in 34 states. Only three of the 62 commercial nuclear sites in the U.S. have yet to announce plans to build their own.

No sign of 3 men missing in Colorado slide

COLLBRAN, Colo. (AP)—Rescue teams failed to find any sign Monday of three men missing after a ridge saturated with rain collapsed, sending mud sliding for 3 miles in a remote part of western Colorado.

Clancy Nichols, 51, a county road and bridge employee, his son Danny, 24, and Wes Hawkins, 46, have been missing since Sunday after the ridge collapsed. They went to check on damage from an initial slide near the edge of Grand Mesa, one of the world's largest flat-topped mountains, after a rancher reported that his irrigation ditch had stopped flowing, Mesa County Sheriff Stan Hilkey said.

The search near the small town of Collbran has been hampered because only the lower third of the slide is stable. Even at the edges, the mud is 20 to 30 feet deep. It's believed to be several hundred feet deep and about a half mile wide.

"Everyone on this mountain is praying for a miracle right now," Hilkey said.

Deputies estimate that the entire ridge had been moving for most of Sunday before someone called to report the slide at 6:15 p.m., describing it as sounding like a freight train. Hilkey believes runoff from Grand Mesa from recent rain triggered the slide. A hydrologist from the Natural Weather Service and a geologist from the U.S. Geological Survey were helping authorities assess the situation.

Hawkins' cousin, Bill Clark, said he went along with Clancy and Danny Nichols to check on why an irrigation ditch had stopped flowing because he works for an area water district. He said he has a family and young children.

Clark, who visited the canyon where the slide struck, said it was completely filled with mud. He said the slide struck with so much force that some also spilled over into the neighboring draw.

"I've never seen so much earth move like that in my life," he said.

From a distance of about 10 miles, the slide looked like a funnel, narrowing into a culvert below. It cut a giant channel through trees. The creek that once gradually flowed down the ridge now spurted down like a waterfall. Roads in the area, where some cattle grazed, were muddy from rain.

Asia

Thai coup leader: Don't protest, it's no use

BANGKOK (AP)—Bolstered by an endorsement from Thailand's king, the nation's new military ruler issued a stark warning Monday to anyone opposed to last week's coup: don't cause trouble, don't criticize, don't protest—or else the nation could revert to the "old days" of turmoil and street violence.

Speaking in his first public appearance since the coup, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha defended the army's takeover, saying he had to restore order after seven months of increasingly violent confrontations between the now-ousted government and demonstrators who had long urged the army to intervene.

"I'm not here to argue with anyone. I want to bring everything out in the open and fix it," said Prayuth, who spoke at the army headquarters in Bangkok dressed in a crisp white military uniform.

"Everyone must help me," he said, adding: but "do not criticize, do not create new problems. It's no use."

The tough words came as an aide to former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said she had been released Monday from military custody after being held for three days at an undisclosed location without access to a telephone. The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, said Yingluck had returned to her home.

In a gruff, 20-minute appearance, Prayuth warned the media and social media users to avoid doing anything that could fan the conflict. He also called on anti-coup protesters who have been staging small-scale demonstrations to stop.

"Right now there are people coming out to protest. So do you want to go back to the old days? I'm asking the people in the country, if you want it that way, then I will have to enforce the law."

Earlier Monday, a royal command sent in the name of King Bhumibol Adulyadej officially endorsed Prayuth to run the country and called for "reconciliation among the people."

Bhumibol, who is 86 and in fragile health, did not attend the ceremony, in which Prayuth knelt down before a large picture of the monarch and offered a decorated cone of banana leaves. The endorsement is a formality, but in a country where the king's word is supreme, it is one that carries enormous weight.

Thursday's coup, Thailand's second in eight years, deposed an elected government that had insisted for months that the nation's fragile democracy was under attack from protesters, the courts, and finally the army.

The country is deeply split between an elite establishment based in Bangkok and the south that cannot win elections on one side, and a poorer majority centered in the north that has begun to realize political and economic power on the other.

Vietnam accuses China of sinking fishing boat

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam accused a Chinese vessel of ramming and sinking a Vietnamese fishing boat in the disputed South China Sea, sharpening already dangerously high tensions between the two nations over their overlapping territorial claims in the waters.

The alleged incident occurred Monday around 30 kilometers (18 miles) south-southwest of large oil rig that China deployed on May 1 in a disputed section of the sea, according to Tran Van Linh, president of the Fisheries Association in the central port city of Danang and accounts in several state media.

The rig deployment infuriated Hanoi and set off violent anti-China protests that further soured ties between the neighboring communist countries with close economic relations.

Vietnam sent patrol ships to confront the rig, and China has deployed scores of vessels to protect it. The two sides have been involved in a tense standoff, occasionally colliding with each other.

"I call this an act of attempted murder because the Chinese sank a Vietnamese fishing boat and then ran away," Linh said by telephone from Danang. "We vehemently protest this perverse, brutal and inhumane action by Chinese side."

Chinese officials didn't immediately comment.

China and Vietnam have long sparred over who owns what in the oil- and gas-rich waters. Incidents between fishing crews are quite common, but Linh said Monday's reported incident was the first time China had sunk a Vietnamese boat.

Linh said about 40 Chinese steel vessels surrounded a group of smaller, wooden Vietnamese fishing ships on Monday afternoon. He said one then rammed into the Vietnamese ship, tossing 10 fishermen into the water and sinking the boat. The fishermen were picked by the other Vietnamese boats and there were no injuries.

The sunken fishing boat with its equipment and seafood catch was worth $240,000, and the association was demanding compensation, Linh said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says 5 terror suspects detained

BEIJING (AP)—Police in China's restive northwest foiled a terror plot by detaining five suspects and seizing 1.8 tons of bomb-making materials, the regional government said Tuesday, five days after a market bombing in the region killed dozens of people. Authorities in the Hotan section of the Xinjiang region destroyed two bomb-making workshops in the latest raid on Monday, the regional government said on its official Tianshan Net website. The Muslim region, home to the Turkish-speaking ethnic minority of Uighurs, has seen rising violence that China blames on secession-seeking terrorists. Uighurs complain of restrictive and discriminatory policies and practices by the government and the dominant ethnic majority of Han Chinese.

Train accident kills at least 40 in northern India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—An express train plowed into a parked freight train in northern India on Monday, killing at least 40 people and reducing cars to heaps of torn and twisted metal, officials said. The Gorakhpur Express passenger train was traveling at high speed and slammed on its brakes in an attempt to stop, but hit the train sitting on the tracks near a railway station in Uttar Pradesh state, district magistrate Bharat Lal said. Six of the cars on the express train derailed, with one car with unreserved seating taking the brunt of the impact and accounting for most of the 40 deaths so far counted, senior police officer Amrendra Sainger said.

Gunmen kill US doctor from minority in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen in Pakistan shot dead a visiting American cardiologist from the minority Ahmadi sect in front of his wife and toddler son on Monday as they left a cemetery after visiting relatives' graves, police said. The two gunmen riding a motorcycle shot Mehdi Ali Qamar 10 times at close range in the central town of Chanab Nagar, police officer Shaukat Ali said, adding that Qamar's wife and son were not harmed. He is survived by two other sons. The officer said the family arrived two days ago from their home in Ohio, for a visit and that the cardiologist had planned to treat patients at the nearby Tahir Heart Institute. Ali said the killers' motive is not yet known.

World

Ukraine launches airstrike on pro-Moscow rebels

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's president-elect said Monday he wants to begin talks with Moscow and end a pro-Russia insurgency in the east, but the rebels escalated the conflict by occupying a major airport, and the government in Kiev responded with an airstrike.

As darkness fell in Donetsk, a city of about 1 million in eastern Ukraine, it was unclear who was in control of the airport. Hundreds of fighters of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic had been brought by trucks to a wooded area on the fringes of the airport, many of them armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and automatic rifles. At least one warplane streaked over the city, firing flares, and explosions were heard from the direction of the airport.

■■■

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—At least 30 bodies of killed fighters have been brought to a hospital following a day of heavy fighting in Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, in which the government forces used combat jets and helicopter gunships against pro-Russia rebels, an insurgent said Tuesday.

The rebel fighter, who wouldn't give his name because of security concerns, said outside the hospital in Donetsk that 30 bodies of his fellow insurgents were delivered there.

He said the truck carrying the bodies was still parked outside the hospital, waiting for explosives experts to check for any unexploded ordnance.

■■■

Early Tuesday, the DPR said on its Twitter account that a truck carrying wounded from the airport area came under fire and that the driver was killed.

The rebels, who declared independence for Donetsk and the neighboring Luhansk region after a hastily called and dubious referendum two weeks ago, regarded Sunday's election of candy tycoon Petro Poroshenko as president to be illegitimate.

In a victory speech, the billionaire promised to open a dialogue with residents of eastern Ukraine and to guarantee their rights. The rebels and many others in the region say they fear the February ouster of pro-Moscow President Viktor Yanukovych will lead to the repression of its predominantly Russian-speaking population by Ukrainian nationalists.

Poroshenko also said he would not negotiate with armed insurgents that he calls terrorists.

"Peace can only be achieved through a dialogue with people," he said Monday. "This process cannot be stopped with the use of arms only; arms can be used exclusively against killers and terrorists."

Ukrainian president-elect

Petro Poroshenko

Early years

Born 1965, in the Odessa region of Ukraine

Education Economics degree, Kiev State University

Business career

- **Started** a business selling cocoa beans, acquired several candy businesses, then united his holdings into the Roshen group, Ukraine's largest confectionary maker
- **Nicknamed** "chocolate king," for the fortune he made

Political career

1998 First elected to parliament; re-elected in 2002, 2006 and 2012

2005 Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council under President Viktor Yushchenko, his close friend

2009-2010 Foreign minister under Yushchenko

2012 Minister of trade and economic development

2014 Elected president; is pro-European but viewed with some skepticism due to his position as a billionaire businessman, his business ties in Russia and his long-time involvement in Ukraine's politics, which are known to be corrupt

Source: BBC, New York Times, Forbes, MCT Photo Service

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Nigerian defense chief says abducted girls located

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's military has located nearly 300 school girls abducted by Islamic extremists but fears using force to try to free them could get them killed, the country's chief of defense said Monday.

Air Marshal Alex Badeh told demonstrators supporting the much criticized military that Nigerian troops can save the girls. But he added, "we can't go and kill our girls in the name of trying to get them back."

He spoke to thousands of demonstrators who marched to Defense Ministry headquarters in Abuja, the capital. Many were brought in on buses, indicating it was an organized event.

Asked by reporters where they had found the girls, Badeh refused to elaborate.

"We want our girls back. I can tell you we can do it. Our military can do it. But where they are held, can we go with force?" he asked the crowd.

People roared back, "No!"

"If we go with force what will happen?" Badeh asked.

"They will die," the demonstrators responded.

That appeared to leave negotiation the sole option, but a human rights activist close to negotiators said a deal to swap the girls for detained Boko Haram members was agreed last week and then scuttled at the last minute by President Goodluck Jonathan.

The activist who is close to those mediating between Boko Haram extremists and government officials said the girls would have been freed last week Monday.

Pope ends delicate Mideast trip with peace call

JERUSALEM (AP)—Pope Francis wrapped up his Mideast pilgrimage Monday with a balancing act of symbolic and spontaneous gestures to press his call for peace between Israel and the Palestinians and friendship between Jews and Muslims in the land of Jesus' birth.

A day after he boosted Palestinian aspirations by praying at Israel's security barrier surrounding Bethlehem, Francis honored Holocaust victims by kissing the hands of several survivors, and accepted Israel's last-minute request to pray at a memorial to victims of suicide bombings and other attacks.

But the image that the Vatican hopes will define the trip, and perhaps Francis' young papacy, was another: that of the leader of the 1.2 billion strong Catholic Church embracing his Argentine friends, a rabbi and a Muslim, in front of the Western Wall, adjacent to the disputed hilltop compound that lies at the heart of decades of Israel-Arab tensions.

After visiting the golden-topped Dome of the Rock shrine on the compound on Monday morning, Francis prayed at the nearby Western Wall, leaving a hand-written note with the "Our Father" prayer written in his native Spanish in between the cracks of stone.

When he finished, a visibly emotional Francis embraced Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Omar Abboud, a leader of Argentina's Muslim community, both of whom joined Francis on his official delegation in a potent symbol of interfaith friendship.

Focus

AP

Armed policemen stand guard near the site of an explosion in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang region, Thursday, May 22, 2014.

City in China bombing divided by ETHNIC TENSION

By DIDI TANG and LOUISE WATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

URUMQI, China (AP)—Yang Bin and Chen Li stand out in their neighborhood in the capital of China's Muslim northwest. The couple from the country's Han ethnic majority live surrounded by minority Uighurs, but have little to do with their neighbors.

"We don't speak their language, so we don't interact with them at all," Yang, a laborer, said of the Turkish-speaking Muslims. His wife added: "They are basically foreigners, and they behave like foreigners."

State media say ethnic Chinese and minorities mix easily in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang region. But interviews with more than two dozen residents following Thursday's bombing at a vegetable market in the city that killed at least 43 people suggest a harsher reality in which the two groups regard each other across a tense gulf of misunderstanding and suspicion.

Relations have deteriorated since rioting in 2009 left nearly 200 people dead. Both groups are moving out of ethnically mixed neighborhoods, making an already divided city of 3 million people even more segregated.

The tensions raise questions about how Beijing can defuse mounting unrest that Uighur (pronounced WEE'-gur) activists say is due to frustration over an influx of Han Chinese and discriminatory policies such as a ban on taking children to mosques.

The region is part of a campaign launched in the 1990s and dubbed "Develop the West" that aims to raise incomes in Xinjiang, Tibet and other minority areas and bind them to China's Han east with railways and other infrastructure. Uighurs, however, say the benefits have gone to Han migrants who have been encouraged to flood into the area.

"There is greater discontent now and recognition that the Uighur character of the region is being irretrievably lost," Ahmed A.S. Hashim, a terrorism expert at Singapore's Nanyang Technical University, said in an email.

"Chinese promises to develop (the economy) and provide jobs don't seem to have panned out," Hashim said.

In Thursday's attack, men in two off-road vehicles rammed through crowds at the popular street market in central Urumqi and set off explosives.

Authorities said four suspects were killed in the attack and that a fifth was captured Thursday night. Based on names released by the government, the suspects appeared to be Uighurs.

On Sunday, the government called on anyone involved in terror activities in Xinjiang to turn themselves in. They were promised leniency, especially those who implicate other militants.

The government blames the unrest on separatists with ties to Islamic terror groups abroad. Foreign experts say they see no evidence of that. Attacks so far have been relatively crude, using knives and bombs.

The evolution of the neighborhood where the bombing occurred reflects the separation of Urumqi into Han and Muslim sections.

Following the 2009 riots, Urumqi's Han residents congregated in the city's north, where there are new real estate developments, leaving the south area dominated by Muslim Uighurs, according to a Western resident who operates a business nearby. The Westerner asked not to be identified by name or nationality due to the political sensitivity of the ethnic divide.

"Urumqi has become a more segregated city, particularly since the riots in 2009," said David Brophy, a historian at the University of Sydney who lived in the city a decade ago.

A Han woman, who like many interviewed for this article refused to give her name, said her friends call ethnic Chinese neighborhoods "the liberated zone" and those of Uighurs "the enemy's zone."

Authorities are unlikely to allow an independent study of the demographic shift due to the political sensitivity of ethnic tensions, Brophy said.

A bomb attack last month at an Urumqi train station that killed three people, including two of the attackers, might have been targeted as a symbol of Han migration into the region, he said.

Several residents in Urumqi also believed Thursday's attack was ethnically motivated because of the predominance of Han residents.

Unlike some other ethnic minorities, Uighurs have retained a distinctly separate culture, speaking a Turkic language that has no relation to Chinese and following Muslim traditions like those of Central Asia.

The ruling Communist Party says the region has been part of China for more than 1,000 years, but its people have a long history of rebellion against foreign rule.

AP

Ethnic Uighurs prepare for their Friday prayer outside a mosque in Urumqi, China's northwestern region of Xinjiang, Friday, May 23, 2014.

Yang Hanjiang, a Han Chinese taxi driver, deplored what he said was a lack of knowledge by Han people about the Uighurs.

"The Chinese do not really interact with the Uighurs," Yang said. He went on to express a sentiment that reflects Han unease: "In every Uighur's heart and mind, independence is their dream."

Despite an official policy to promote ethnic unity, Han increasingly view Uighurs as separatists and Muslim terrorists, according to Hashim, the terrorism expert.

It is common for both Uighurs and Han to "express quite hostile or prejudiced views," said Brophy, the Australian historian.

"The violence is an indication that people are willing to take more drastic measures to express their opposition, and those attacks in turn increase Han hostility to Uighurs," Brophy said. "We're in a bit of a vicious circle now."

The latest attacks have left Urumqi's ethnic Chinese on edge about their Muslim neighbors.

At a convenience store on a street near the vegetable market, the operator spoke of heightened alert whenever a Uighur steps in. "If it is a Uighur man, we follow him in the store in case he could place something here, like an explosive," Jiang Lulu said. "We have been told by the government to take extra precautions here."

Longtime Han residents say their relationship with Uighur friends is changing.

"We are speaking less with each other, and they don't trust us," said a Xinjiang-born Han resident, who asked not to be identified by name. "Now, there is something between us."

Campus Life

CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulations to the Saipan Community School's Class of 2014! From left to right, front to back: Tae Yeon Kim, Rachel Kim, Julie Kim, Judy Kim, Joo Young Kim (Valedictorian, Loyalty Award) and Melanie He; Yun Pyo Jeon, Isaac Jang, Paul Heo (Salutatorian, Loyalty Award), Daniel Calvo, Prudencio Cabrera, Dominic Basilio, and Kento Akimaru (Citizenship Award, and Loyalty Award); Arthur Sondheim, Abbas Shakir, Darian Salas, David Paik (Loyalty Award), Manato Machida, Nathanael Lim (Loyalty Award), and Herald Lee. President's Education Award for outstanding academic performance in 8th grade: Gold Award – Prudencio Cabrera, Paul Heo, Isaac Jang, Joo Young Kim, and Rachel Kim; Silver Award – Kento Akimaru, Melanie He, Judy Kim, Herald Lee, Daniel Calvo II, Yun Pyo Jeon, Tae Yeon Kim, and Nathanael Lim.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kids, parents are embracing the walking school bus

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)— As a group of children walked home together from school in Providence, they held hands and played the "I Spy" guessing game. When they reached a busy intersection, an adult accompanying them prodded, "What's the rule?"

"Behind the line!" they said in unison, as they stepped back from the edge of the curb and waited for the walk signal.

Shortly after, the group stopped in front of 8-year-old Jaiden Guzman's house. He said goodbye to his friends and raced to his front door. His mother waved and the rest of the walking school bus continued on its way.

For a growing number of children in Rhode Island, Iowa and other states, the school day starts and ends in the same way—they walk with their classmates and an adult volunteer to and from school. Walking school buses are catching on in school districts nationwide because they are seen as a way to fight childhood obesity, improve attendance rates and ensure that kids get to school safely.

AP

In May 20, 2014 photo, 8-year-old Divya Dahal, center front, takes a break with other school children while walking home from school with a group of kids escorted by Allyson Trenteseaux, a Walking School Bus program manager, top, in Providence, R.I. Program is seen as a way to get kids active, fight childhood obesity and improve absenteeism, which can be higher among students who live too close to school to qualify for a bus ride.

Ten-year-old Rosanyily Laurenz signed up for the Providence walking school bus this school year. Before, she said, she was sometimes late to school when her grandmother didn't feel well enough to walk with her.

But now, "I get to walk with my friends," Rosanyily said. "Plus, I get snacks."

Many programs across the country are funded by the federal Safe Routes to School program, which pays for infrastructure improvements and initiatives to enable children to walk and bike to school.

Robert Johnson, of the Missouri-based PedNet Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for transit alternatives, said the success of the programs reflects a growing interest in getting kids more active.

"Every parent is looking for ways to make their child a little healthier, and walking to school is one," he said.

In 2012, about 30 percent of students living within a mile of school walked there in the morning and 35 percent walked home in the afternoon, according to the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Those numbers have increased by about 6 percentage points since 2007.

Organizers in Providence are also motivated by high rates of chronic absenteeism. Thirty-seven percent of Providence students missed 10 percent or more of the 2010-11 school year.

The nonprofit agency Family Service of Rhode Island targeted Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School for its first walking school bus in 2012 because it's located in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Children who live within a mile of school don't qualify for the bus.

In Sioux City, Iowa, nearly 1,000 children in 10 elementary schools use walking school buses during the spring and fall, said Alison Benson, spokeswoman for the district. Benson said the program has helped the schools incorporate fitness into the morning routine and build a sense of community.

Elementary schools in Columbia, Missouri, were among the first in the nation to have walking school buses. Piloted in 2003, the program, at its height, involved 450 children, 13 schools and about 200 volunteers. It was canceled this year because of funding issues, according to the PedNet Coalition.

Johnson said he is working with 15 school districts in Kansas on what may become the largest walking school bus project in the United States.

Some districts have been able to cut school bus routes and save money because of the program, he said.

On the milelong route in Providence, the program's manager, Allyson Trenteseaux, and another volunteer recently led Jaiden, Rosanyily and six other children through busy intersections and around broken glass littering the sidewalks.

On the walks, Trenteseaux said, she mends relationships among the kids, builds relationships and intervenes when there are problems. During the winter, a walk leader noticed some of the children were wearing slippers and bought them all boots.

Last year, 11 of the 14 students who participated and completed a survey attended school more often. The program now has a waiting list, and Family Service plans to expand into more schools next year.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Irminia Arriola Benavente Cox

Born to life – December 24, 1933 • Called to Eternal Life – May 24, 2014

In her new life she now joins
Parents: †Ignacio V. and Rita A. Benavente
Brothers and Sisters, and Sister in Law: †Jose A Benavente, †Trinidad A. Benavente, †Veronica A. Benavente, †Estanislao A. Benavente, †Maria B. Atalig, †Francisca A. Benavente, †Magdalena C. Benavente
Nieces and Nephew: †Norbert B. Camacho, †Francisca B. Camacho, †Phyllis A. Leuta

She will be greatly missed by her
Children, Grandchildren and Great grandchildren
Michael E. Cox and Elizabeth R. Custodio
Maureen L. and Alvon C. Elrod (**Caleb** & Melody Elrod, Brent & **Alison** [*Kylie*] Coultrup, **Ashley**)
Randy and Sheryl Cox
Addie L. and Bill Ferguson (Wayne, Alexandria)
Brothers, Sisters, and Sisters in Law:
Martina K. Benavente and Family
Dolores B. Camacho (Guam) and Family
Eleuterio A. Benavente
Abelina Benavente and Family
Luis A. and Susan Benavente (Washington) and Family

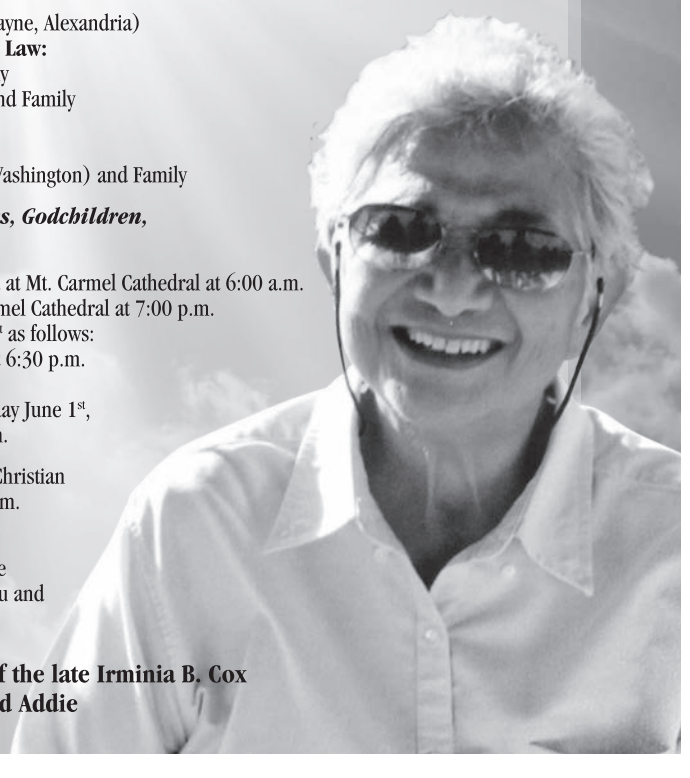
And numerous Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being said at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary is being said at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.
except for May 30th, 31st and June 1st as follows:
- Friday May 30th – St Jude at 6:30 p.m. (after 6:00 p.m. Mass)
- Saturday May 31st and Sunday June 1st, St. Jude Church at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, June 2, 2014, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment services.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated. Thank you and Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Children and Families of the late Irminia B. Cox
Michael, Maureen, Randy and Addie



Life & Style

‘X-Men’ atop holiday opener bests with $111M

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”X-Men: Days of Future Past” is projected to be the fifth best Memorial Day holiday weekend debut in box office history over a four-day period, just behind “Fast & Furious 6” and above “The Hangover 2.”

The seventh installment in the “X-Men” franchise earned $111 million, according to studio estimates on Monday. Fox updated its holiday weekend projection, taking it up slightly from $91 million to $91.4 million.

2006’s “X-Men: The Last Stand” is still the highest domestic opener of the series, gaining $123 million when it debuted over the Memorial holiday. “Days of Future Past,” starring a solid cast including Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence, Halle Berry, Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Peter Dinklage and Ellen Page, is now the second highest “X-Men” debut.

“We were hoping to get a $100 million in four days and we hoped to broaden the movie out to a more general audience, which has come to fruition from a gender standpoint, age standpoint and race standpoint,” said Spencer Klein, senior vice president general sales manager for Fox.

The diverse domestic “X-Men” audience was 56 percent male and 44 percent female. Racially, 53 percent of the audience was white, 20 percent African-American, 14 percent Asian and 13 percent Hispanic.

The attention “Days of Future Past” director Bryan Singer received due a sexual assault lawsuit didn’t keep fans away from theaters this weekend.

“We didn’t really anticipate that it would,” said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for Fox. “It really shouldn’t have an impact on audiences and seeing this movie. The audience reactions on a global basis are extraordinarily high, the best of any of our `X-Men’ films.”

Globally, “Days of Future Past” earned $282 million with $171 million of that total gained from the international sales in 119 countries, all of which had the “X-Men” film ranked No. 1.

The projected worldwide box office cume of “Days of Future Past” through Monday is an astounding $302 million.

Warner Bros. sci-fi monster smash “Godzilla” dropped to No. 2, but landed solidly with $39.4 million from Thursday to Monday.

The Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore-led comedy “Blended” held the third place spot with an $18.2 million debut. It’s not a great start for the duo whose previous team-ups included “The Wedding Singer” and “50 First Dates.” Both films grossed over $80 million domestically.

“Neighbors” and “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” rounded out the top five earning $17.2 million and $10 million, respectively.

The four-day Memorial weekend is estimated to generate nearly $230 million, which is down approximately 27 percent from last year’s holiday weekend gross of $314.2 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Tuesday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Tuesday.

1. **“X-Men: Days of Future Past,”** $111 million ($171 million international).
2. **“Godzilla,”** $39.4 million.
3. **“Blended,”** $18.2 million.
4. **“Neighbors,”** $17.2 million.
5. **“The Amazing Spider-Man 2,”** $10 million.
6. **“Million Dollar Arm,”** $9 million.
7. **“The Other Woman,”** $5 million.
8. **“Rio 2,”** $3.3 million.
9. **“Chef,”** $3 million.
10. **“Heaven Is for Real,”** $2.8 million.

Japanese pop group AKB48 cancels events after attack

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s hugely popular female pop group AKB48 canceled fan events Monday after a saw-wielding man attacked two members and a staffer, shocking the nation and raising questions over security.

The two group members, Anna Iriyama, 18, and Rina Kawaei, 19, suffered hand and head injuries, and the male staffer who tried to stop the attack Sunday at a fan event in northern Japan had cuts on his hand. All three left the hospital by late Monday.

The women, wearing hats and covering their hands with white towels, appeared in front of a huge crowd of reporters outside the hospital and thanked fans for their concern.

“We’ve caused you worry, but we are returning to Tokyo now,” Kawaei said. “Thank you very much.”

The attack on the group, whose members are dubbed “idols you can meet” because of their fan events, has rattled people in a nation known for public safety. The news topped TV entertainment shows and even the two nationwide newspapers Yomiuri and Mainichi.

On Sunday, the group gave a mini-concert for hundreds of fans in Takizawa city which was followed by a handshaking event, in which fans who buy special CDs can shake hands and chat briefly with their favorite member. As soon as the handshaking event started, a man took a foldable saw from his jacket and went toward the two women, who were standing at the entrance of one of several tents set up inside a gymnasium.

Police arrested Satoru Umeta, a 24-year-old unemployed man, on suspicion of attempted murder.

Iwate prefectural police official Takahiro Fujibayashi said Umeta told investigators that he was not an AKB48 fan and just wanted to commit random murder.

Fujibayashi said there were no full security checks of bags and the suspect might have hidden the saw inside a bag he had at the time of his arrest.

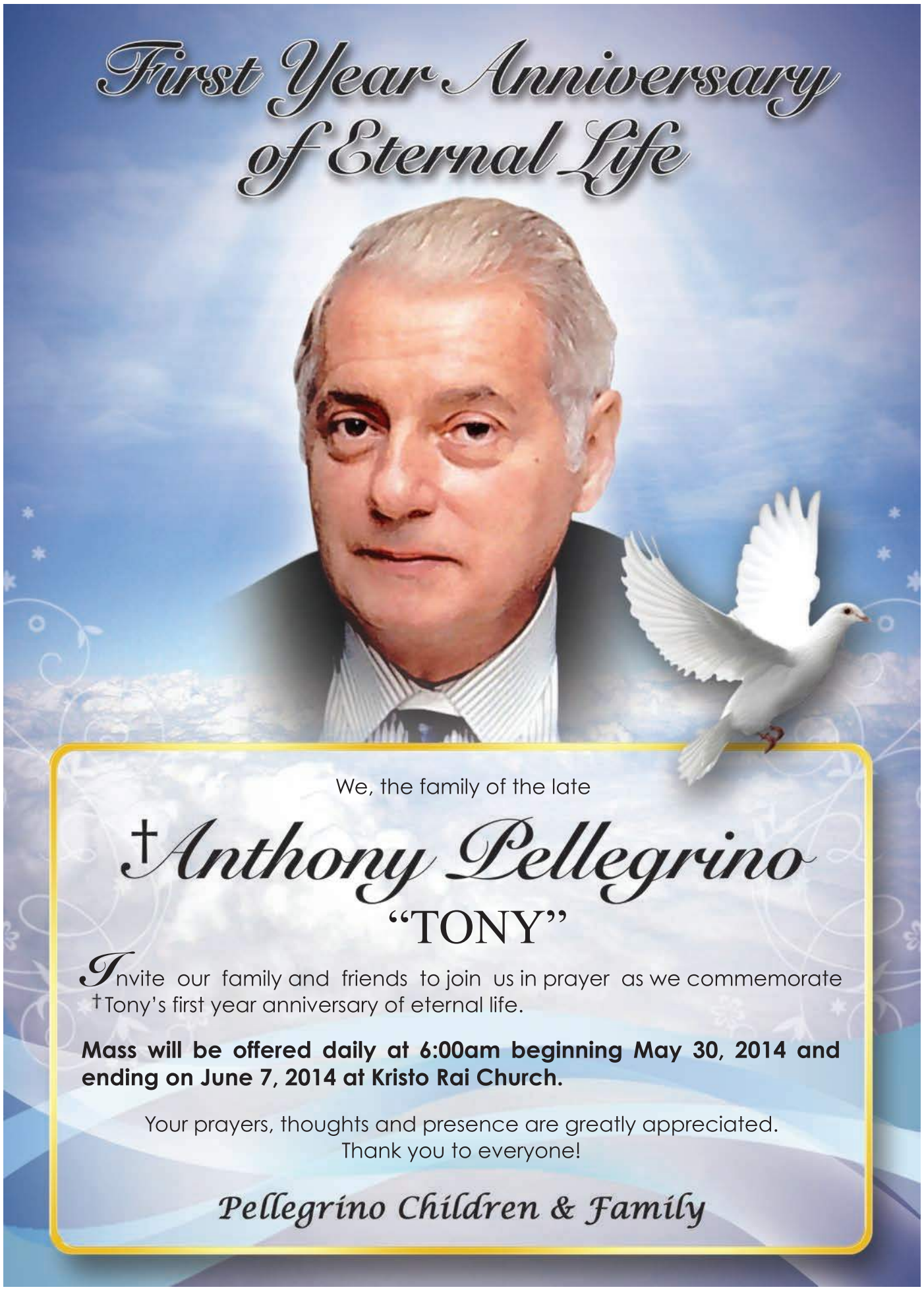
AKB manager Hiroshi Yuasa told reporters he believed the security checks were appropriate but would review safety measures.

Dozens of AKB48 handshaking events are held in Japan every year. Bouncers—called “peelers” here—are assigned to these events to remove fans who linger, but no major attacks have been previously reported.

“It’s nice they are close to the fans, but we have to remember there is a possibility that people like (the attacker) may sneak in,” popular talk show host Seiji Miyane said on his NTV program. He said handshaking is one of the main appeals of AKB48 but the risk needs to be reduced.

Twitter and other social networking sites were flooded with comments about the incident, many of them raising concerns about security checks. AKB48 members kept quiet about the case.

“Such an incident should never have happened. Even if they recover from their physical injuries, their emotional scars will never heal,” former AKB48 member Erena Ono tweeted.


First Year Anniversary
of Eternal Life
We, the family of the late
†Anthony Pellegrino
“TONY”
Invite our family and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate †Tony’s first year anniversary of eternal life.
Mass will be offered daily at 6:00am beginning May 30, 2014 and ending on June 7, 2014 at Kristo Rai Church.
Your prayers, thoughts and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you to everyone!
Pellegrino Children & Family

Carlos Santana wants to save the world with music

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Try to speak with Carlos Santana about his new album and he'll want to talk about another topic: changing the world.

The veteran musician says he is planning a concert aimed at encouraging and motivating the development of young black and Latino men in the wake of Trayvon Martin's death and Donald Sterling's racist comments. He wants to hold the event next year in Florida and is working with Harry Belafonte.

"I'm not show biz and entertainment, I'm an activist," he said. "I'm a person who with passion believes that we can change the world, we can transform hate and fear forever with the right songs and the right timing."

Santana's latest album, "Corazon," debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last week. It features Juanes, Gloria Estefan and Miguel, and Santana said it wasn't hard finding "Cinderella or Cinderfella" to guest on the songs, which he calls "glass slippers."

"We said, 'Hey man, this is going to be great at the Latin Grammys. We got to make an impact there,'" he recalled. "And I go, 'Latin Grammys, why stop there? Why don't we go to the World Cup?' Well guess what, we're closing the World Cup with brother Wyclef (Jean)!"

In an interview with The Associated Press, Santana, 66, had advice for Jay Z, and talked about his tour with Rod Stewart, which kicks off Friday in Albany, New York.

AP: How does it feel to release another album?

Santana: I feel really, really honored to gain people's trust. People opened their hearts and their wallets. ... It allows me to do more things with my brother Harry Belafonte and (activist) Dolores Huerta. ... And so we want to have a concert and bring Jamie Foxx and different kinds of artists, musicians of all colors and utilize this attention and this energy. ... Obviously (with) what happened with Donald Sterling and what's happening with people throwing bananas at soccer stadiums, you know, we have a lot to heal.

AP: Who else do you want to invite to the concert?

Santana: I'd like to bring (NBA Hall of Famer) Dr. J (Julius Erving) and (former NBA player and mayor of Sacramento) Kevin Johnson to San Quentin and talk to the brothers, black and brown, broadcast it in all the prisons and call the event 'You Cannot Break My Spirit.'

AP: How did your tour with Rod Stewart come about?

Santana: I can say it the way Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock would say it, 'Both of us love to play spiritual music to touch all hearts.' That's one thing. The rascal in me ... says, 'We both love black music. We like to play black music for white people.'

AP: There are a number of collaborative tours this summer, from Kiss and Def Leppard to Beyonce and Jay Z. Who would you like to see hit the road together?

Santana: I'd like to see Metallica and Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock to broaden the wings. Metallica did a thing with a symphony, so they're capable, of course, of playing without volume or with volume. I just like to expand popularity with genius. ... I invite brothers like Jay Z who have the money to start bringing the African brothers back to the United States. Since 9/11, if your name is Idrissa Diop or if you have a Muslim name, they won't let you in. But they let the Irish people in and they let the Canadian people in and people from Australia. Man, how come you don't let the African people come in? ... If I had the money and the means that Jay Z has, I would bring African musicians. ... I'm going to invite them. We're going to create something like this in Las Vegas where we can co-headline, because these brothers need to be taken to schools in America so the brothers (here) can learn how to play the drums again. That's the thing I have in common with Africa—I understand the drum ... it's in my DNA.

AP

This April 25, 2014 file photo shows Carlos Santana performing during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans.

UK court: Richard III to be buried in Leicester

LONDON (AP)—In the battle royal over Richard III's bones, Britain's High Court has given the victory to Leicester.

The court ruled Friday that the 15th-century monarch should be buried in the city in central England where his skeleton was found under a parking lot in 2012.

A group of distant relatives had wanted Richard interred in the northern England city of York, to which he had strong ties.

Calling the case "unique and exceptional," three judges ruled there were no grounds to overturn the government's decision to grant a burial license to Leicester. Richard's remains are due to be enshrined in the city's cathedral.

That decision had been challenged by Stephen Nicolay, the king's 16th great-nephew, and a group called the Plantagenet Alliance. They claimed the government did not consult widely enough or consider the wishes of Richard or his living relatives.

But the judges, led by Heather Hallett, said there was "no direct evidence of any definitive wishes expressed by Richard III as to his place of burial."

And they said the claimants "represent but a tiny fraction of Richard III's descendants," who are estimated to number between 1 million and 10 million.

"It is time for King Richard III to be given a dignified reburial and finally laid to rest," the judges said.

Richard was deposed and killed in a battle near Leicester in 1485 and quickly buried without a coffin in a now-demolished church in the city. A skeleton found under a Leicester parking lot was identified as the king through DNA tests, bone analysis and other scientific scrutiny.

He remains one of England's most controversial kings, portrayed as a hunchbacked villain in Shakespeare's play "Richard III." Some historians claim he was a relatively enlightened monarch whose name was besmirched by his opponents.

There was no immediate word on whether the Plantagenet Alliance would appeal.

Van Gogh, Monet among 62 works going to US Gallery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rarely seen paintings by Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet and Edgar Degas are among an impressive collection of 62 artworks that have been transferred to the National Gallery of Art after being held for decades in a private estate, the museum said.

The paintings, sculptures and other works are among 110 objects bequeathed to the museum from the estate of museum benefactor Paul Mellon after his death in 1999. They remained in the care of his widow, Rachel "Bunny" Mellon, at their home until her death in March.

A major highlight of the bequest is Van Gogh's painting "Still Life of Oranges and Lemons with Blue Gloves," which now joins the museum collection and will be put on display beginning June 7.

Acquiring any Van Gogh is cause for celebration, said curator Kimberly Jones, but this one is particularly important. It was created in a tumultuous moment in the artist's life during a brief time between hospitalizations after Van Gogh's mental breakdown in 1888, when he cut off part of his ear. As an artwork, it's "a real knockout," Jones said.

AP

This image provided by the National Gallery of Art shows Winslow Homer's "The Flirt" that has been transferred to the National Gallery of Art from the estate of Paul Mellon.

"It's this very emotionally wrought period of time" after artist Paul Gauguin moved out of the house they had shared, and Van Gogh is mourning the break in their relationship, Jones said. "I think this still life, of all the still lives, is the most Gauguin-like in terms of the pallete, the symbolism. ... I can't help but wonder, looking at this, if Paul Gauguin's presence isn't being very much felt in this painting."

The Mellon family already released 48 other artworks during Rachel Mellon's lifetime, including Van Gogh's painting "Green Wheat Fields, Auvers" in December. Most of the museum's Van Gogh works will be displayed together in June.

The Mellon acquisitions were made mostly in the 1950s and 1960s, with many brought back from France. Most works kept in their Upperville, Virginia, estate haven't been seen since a 1966 exhibition of the Mellon Collection.

Other highlights include one of Monet's earliest known paintings, "Still Life with Bottle, Carafe, Bread and Wine" from 1862-1863 and a large, colorful painting by Degas titled "The Riders," depicting a group of jockeys on horseback.

The collection includes 12 oil sketches by Georges Seurat, who died young and did not have a large body of work. Now, combined with four other paintings by Seurat and a drawing, the museum has one of the most significant U.S. collections of his work, Jones said.

Lionel Richie talks BET honor, upcoming tour

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—For Lionel Richie, part of parenthood has been payback.

The pop icon's 19-year-old son Miles had initials inked on his hand by "Keeping up With the Kardashians" star Kylie Jenner. A video of it was posted on TMZ and made headlines on gossip blogs and celebrity websites.

"In life, they say to me, 'What did you do to your parents, Lionel?' And I said, 'I tried to destroy them,'" a laughing Richie said in a recent interview, noting that he thought daughter Nicole, a tabloid regular, was the parental cross he would have to bear.

"I think Miles may be the next," Richie added, smiling. "I'm only holding my breath."

Richie is also keeping busy with his All the Hits All Night Long tour, which kicks off its second North American leg May 29 in Vancouver, Canada. CeeLo Green will open.

During a break in rehearsals, the 64-year-old Richie joked: "If I wait another 10 years, even I won't remember the lyrics."

The song list will include hits he had in the 1970s and early 1980s with the Commodores. Richie left the band to go solo in 1982 and enjoyed even greater success, including Grammys, an Oscar and a Golden Globe. Next month he will be honored at the BET Awards with a lifetime achievement award.

"I don't take it lightly, especially from BET because I know, I know the talent that's there. So, I'm quite honored," he said. "I was shocked ... I didn't realize I had finally grown up to that stage."

AP
In this Jan. 25, 2014 file photo, recording artist Lionel Richie performs onstage at The 56th Annual GRAMMY Awards Salute to Industry Icons with Clive Davis, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Rolling Stones return to road in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The Rolling Stones, who in March interrupted their 2014 world tour due to singer Mick Jagger's girlfriend's suicide, returned to the road Monday with a high-energy show lasting over two hours at Oslo's Telenor Arena.

Playing to a sold-out crowd of 23,000, Jagger did not mention the death of fashion designer L'Wren Scott, but proved himself proficient in Norwegian-language between-song patter.

"It was a great rock `n roll show," said Jan Martin Schultz, 55, who had travelled with two friends to Monday's concert. All had seen The Rolling Stones several times before, and remarked on Jagger's powerful energy.

"I saw them in Gothenburg in 1982, and I thought then they seemed old. They didn't seem old tonight," said Schultz.

The band played hits from their decades-long catalog, including a rendition of "You Can't Always Get What You Want" featuring Bergen's Edvard Grieg Youth Choir. The band ended their set with fireworks.

The band in March interrupted their tour and later rescheduled all their Australia and New Zealand tour dates upon news that Scott--Jagger's companion since 2001 -- had committed suicide.

The Rolling Stones' next concert will be in Lisbon, Portugal on May 29.

Kathleen Turner seeks satisfaction on London stage

LONDON (AP)—Here's a tip: Don't tell Kathleen Turner what to do.

The 59-year-old actress, whose career stretches from 1980s movie hits "Body Heat" and "Romancing the Stone" to Tony-nominated stage roles, does not like being pigeonholed. Cast early on as a sex symbol, even in animated form—she was the voice of sultry Jessica Rabbit in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?"— she's long refused to be stuck with the limited parts Hollywood provides for women over 40.

But she knows it's a strategy that brings risks.

"I did 'The Graduate' here in London when I was 46, and that was full nudity—for 20 seconds, but it was a big hoopla," said Turner, who is back in Britain with Stephen Sachs' play "Bakersfield Mist."

"The producer said, 'Great, we'll take it to Broadway.' And I said, 'No we won't. Sex in the States is just so screwed up, people's heads are so weird—I don't need the fuss.' So I went off and did another play.

"And then I was sent a film script that described the character as '37 but still attractive.' And that pissed me off so badly I called up the producer of 'The Graduate' and said, 'We're going to Broadway.'

"So at 48, I was naked onstage in New York. I'm very proud of that."

Turner tells the story with a smoky laugh. She seems like a woman who enjoys a challenge—and has the complex roles to prove it, despite battling rheumatoid arthritis since the 1990s.

She was nominated for a Tony for "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" on Broadway, and recently played Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage" in Washington.

"I'm attracted to characters that I might fail at," Turner said.

She still takes TV and movie parts, most recently in the slapstick sequel "Dumb and Dumber To." But she finds the process of movie-making, with its endless retakes and long delays, "boring."

"The interchange between the audience and you onstage is so intense and so exciting that I find I miss that desperately when I do film work now," she says.

In "Bakersfield Mist," Turner plays Maude, an unemployed bartender convinced that the painting she bought for a few bucks is a priceless Jackson Pollock. British actor Ian McDiarmid is the art expert sent to squash or support her claim.

Turner said the play transcends cliches about "the uneducated woman who lives in the trailer and the super-educated elitist who comes from New York" to look at the forces that shape characters and the value of art.

She said she always knew as she grew older that theater would offer the more interesting roles.

"For that reason I never went more than two, two-and-a-half years between being onstage," she said. "I saw many film actors who grew terrified of going back onstage. Because it's a huge risk. There's nobody to say 'Cut,' no editor to fix your performance if you get a little lost.

"There's no safety net."

AP
This image taken in May 2014 and made available by Jo Allan PR shows actors Kathleen Turner performing a scene from "Bakersfield Mist" in a London theatre.

Man trolling on dating sites is not ready to fall in love

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I met the most wonderful man on a dating site. We seemed to hit it off. In fact, we are falling in love with each other. But he isn't ready for an exclusive relationship and still wants to date. He gets on the dating sites when I'm asleep in his bed.

I really care for him, but I don't want to pressure him. He has told me he loves me, but right now he just wants to be friends. He says I should also date, but how do you turn off love?

SAD AND CONFUSED

DEAR SAD AND CONFUSED: Please don't think I'm unkind, but when a man is falling in love with a woman, he does not creep out of bed in the dead of night to visit dating sites. He also doesn't tell her to date other people.

Although you may love this guy, from where I sit, when he said he "just wants to be friends," it appears he meant friends with benefits. Because you are looking for more than that, the next time he gets out of bed to peruse a dating site, you should go with him—on your way out the door.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Michelle," who is attractive, intelligent and works as a teacher's assistant in a public school. What I can't understand is, she refuses to go anywhere without her 33-year-old daughter, "Chloe." They even dress alike.

Chloe is pretty and doesn't have a boyfriend. When Chloe goes out with friends, her mother rings her cellphone over and over until Chloe turns it off.

What do you think is the problem? If Michelle and I go someplace, she wants to bring Chloe, or she calls her and has her come to where we are. Chloe complains to me that she wants her freedom, but Mom accuses her of not loving her, and cries and makes her feel guilty.

Chloe is a college graduate. Her mother allows her to work, but she must come straight home afterward. I'm confused, Abby. What can I do?

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT

DEAR SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT: How sad for Chloe. Michelle's relationship with her daughter is more "smotherhood" than motherhood. It's not healthy for either of them. Your friend appears to be unable to see Chloe as separate from herself—which is why she wants them to dress like twins and becomes anxious when Chloe is with friends instead of by her side.

The kindest thing you could do for the young woman would be to tell her to discuss this with a licensed mental health professional, because she will need help and support in severing the umbilical cord at this late date. That won't be easy. There will be pain involved for both Chloe and her desperately possessive mother, but if Chloe is going to have an independent life, it has to happen.

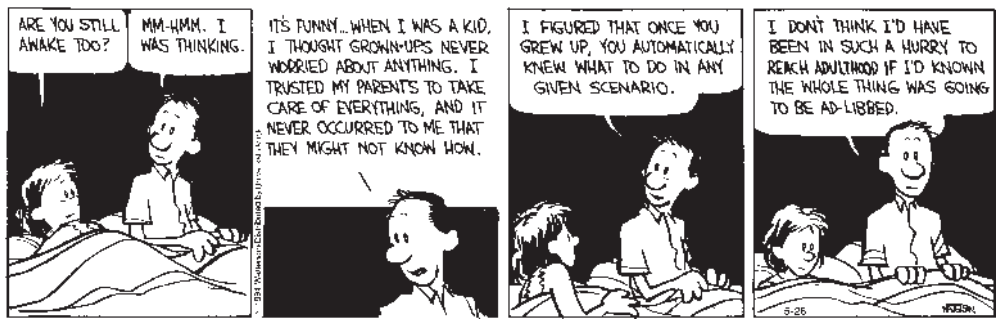
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

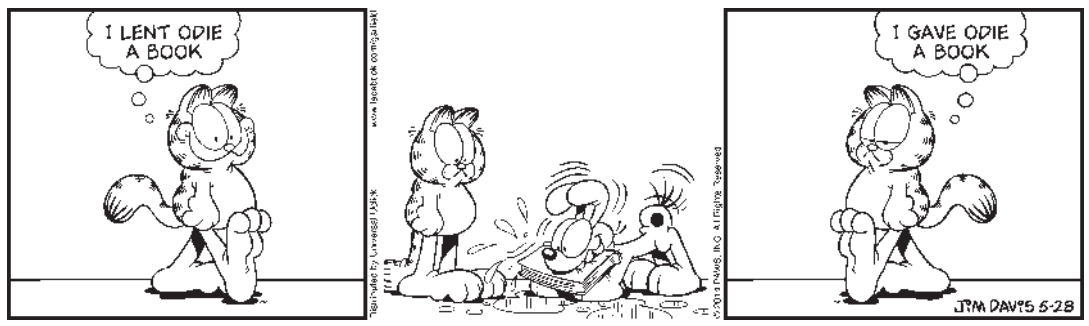
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ARE YOU STILL AWAKE TOO?
MM-HMM. I WAS THINKING.
IT'S FUNNY...WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GROWN-UPS NEVER WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING. I TRUSTED MY PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, AND IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW.
I FIGURED THAT ONCE YOU GREW UP, YOU AUTOMATICALLY KNEW WHAT TO DO IN ANY GIVEN SCENARIO.
I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY TO REACH ADULTHOOD IF I'D KNOWN THE WHOLE THING WAS GOING TO BE AD-LIBBED.
5-26

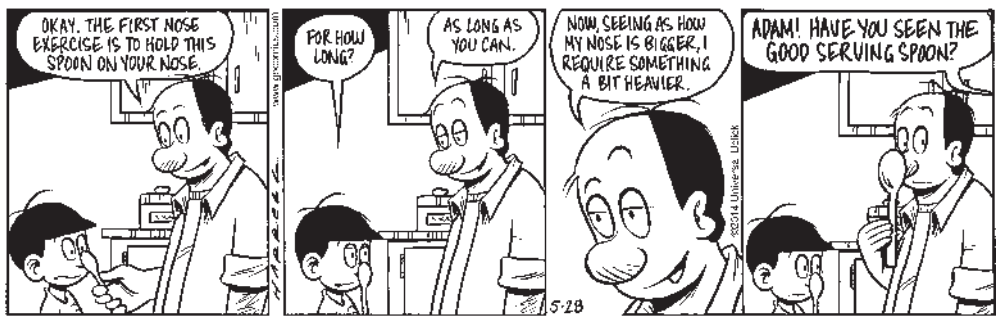
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



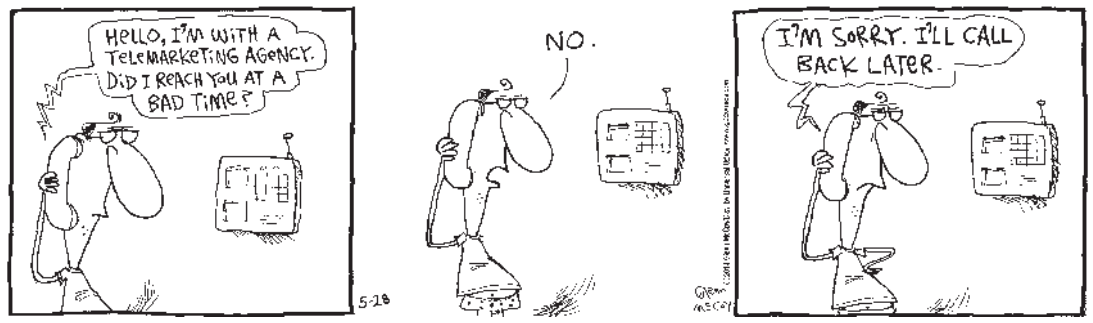
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. THE FIRST NOSE EXERCISE IS TO HOLD THIS SPOON ON YOUR NOSE.
FOR HOW LONG?
AS LONG AS YOU CAN.
NOW, SEEING AS HOW MY NOSE IS BIGGER, I REQUIRE SOMETHING A BIT HEAVIER.
ADAM! HAVE YOU SEEN THE GOOD SERVING SPOON?
5-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cage component
4 — Beta Kappa
7 Test the waters
8 Point-and-click gizmo
10 Languished
11 Nearly
13 "The Raven" writer
16 "Gosh!"
17 DuPont acrylic
18 Disencumber
19 Arrive
20 Many Rembrandts
21 Con jobs
23 Stops
25 Complain
26 Transmit
27 Carte lead-in
28 Winning
30 Whatever amount
33 "Take This Job and Shove It" writer
36 Bounce playfully
37 They're often common objects
38 Relates
39 Carry
40 Last letter
41 — out a living

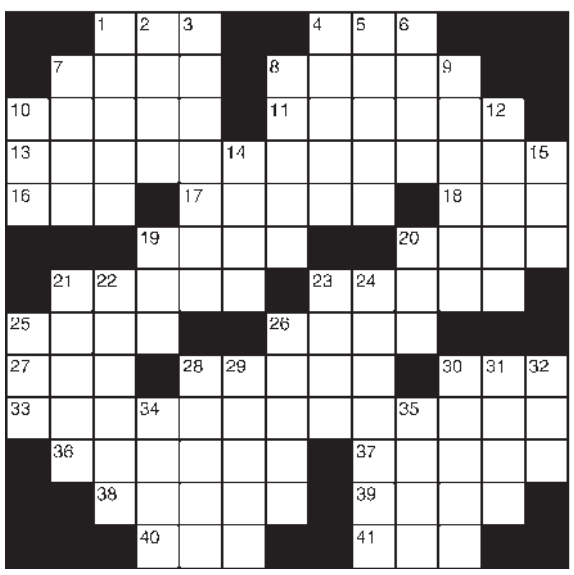
DOWN

1 Scope
2 Concept
3 Crash site?
4 Chicken, on a Mexican menu
5 Mortal
6 "The bird — the wing"
7 Broad
8 Director Louis
9 — de corps
10 Cribbage scorekeeper
12 Works hard
14 Weaponry
15 Harris and O'Neill
19 Upper limit
20 On in years
21 Dieter's entree
22 Necktie
23 Get better
24 Slowish, in music
25 Two-timer
26 Monica of tennis
28 Confound
29 Berry on screen
30 Sharp
31 Zilch
32 "Of course"
34 Mother of Don Juan
35 Cranny counterpart

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	P	S		A	P	T		M	I	E	N
A	L	A	N		M	O	E		U	N	I	O
I	Γ	S	O		B	L	A	C	K	C	A	T
C	A	T	W	A	L	K		E	L	A	T	E
			E	V	E		F	L	U			
G	R	A	D	E		W	A	L	K	O	F	F
I	A	H			Z	E	N			H	A	L
O	F	F	B	F	A	T		A	M	O	R	Y
			A	P	P		W	H	O			
A	M	A	T	I		B	E	A	T	B	O	X
B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E		H	A	R	M
A	R	L	O		L	I	D		E	L	S	A
T	E	E	N		D	O	S		R	I	O	S

Yesterday's answer 5-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carey Mulligan, 29; Kylie Minogue, 46; Christa Miller, 50; Gladys Knight, 70

Happy Birthday: Use your willpower and don't take no for an answer, and you will get things done. Step out of your comfort zone if it will help you further your cause or position. A direct approach to whatever you do will bring the best results. Your imagination and creative flare will give rise to brilliant ideas and recognition. Stay focused. Your numbers are 7, 15, 19, 27, 30 36, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get moving and finish off whatever it is you have to get done. Once your responsibilities are out of the way, you can have some fun. Your impressive way of handling the situations you face will make your peers and family view you differently. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll see things clearly and assess situations mindfully. Offering suggestions and showing kindness will encourage others to treat you in the same manner. If handled properly, an unexpected expense can turn into an assett in the future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Share your thoughts, but don't forget to listen to the response you get. It's important to take into consideration all the suggestions made if you want to show that you are a team player. Work with others to come up with the best solutions. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep an open mind. Not everyone will be forthright regarding a situation that involves you. Make your assessment based on the facts you discover through research. Don't let anyone sway you in the wrong direction. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Embrace the unknown. It's what you experience that will help you make wise decisions. The changes going on around you should stir up enthusiasm to reach for higher standards and pursue long-lost goals. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let someone dupe you into a situation that is not beneficial. If someone tries to push or pressure you, back away and look for other alternatives. Charity begins at home, so don't spend elsewhere. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Follow through with your plans. Now is not the time to procrastinate when you can accomplish so much with a little effort and decisiveness. Show enthusiasm and you will spark interest in those who have something worthwhile to contribute. Love is magnified. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take time to address personal paperwork that has been left unfinished. Staying on top of your personal responsibilities will be important and help you determine how much time you have left over to take care of your needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make the most of every situation you face and something good will sprout. Personal and professional partnerships can be developed, enhanced and taken to a whole new level. Romance is on the rise, so make an effort to please. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spend time making sure that everything you are working on is done to your satisfaction. Problems may arise if you leave important details to someone else. Omit failure by taking care of business without expecting any outside help. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of your financial future. Go over your investments or consider new ways to bring in more cash. Simple cost cuts can help you save for something that will make your life easier. Communicating with experts will help you develop your ideas. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take one step at a time. Keep your eyes open and your ears peeled for any negativity going on around you. You aren't likely to please everyone, but you can maneuver and manipulate your situation to get the results you desire. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and inquisitive. You seek knowledge and experience.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	8				9	4	
3			8		6			1
			1					5
			5					9
			2					4
		4					8	
	9					7		
5					2			
6	3	7	4		9	1	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	6	5	1	9	4	2
6	5	4	2	8	9	1	7	3
9	1	2	7	3	4	8	6	5
3	9	8	5	7	2	6	1	4
2	6	1	4	9	8	5	3	7
5	4	7	1	6	3	2	8	9
4	3	5	8	2	6	7	9	1
7	8	9	3	1	5	4	2	6
1	2	6	9	4	7	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY Solution: 10 letters

E	T	A	N	O	T	F	A	N	E	L	G	W	F	E
R	G	I	R	O	D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E	E	T
A	N	R	T	C	S	S	E	G	D	I	R	B	R	A
U	I	P	E	A	H	T	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	T
Q	W	O	R	E	N	E	A	L	L	I	V	R	Y	S
S	E	R	N	O	N	S	O	W	I	L	B	U	R	R
Y	W	T	U	D	S	W	M	L	O	W	E	R	E	E
E	N	L	O	A	A	P	O	E	O	T	E	R	V	T
L	O	L	H	O	Ⓚ	Y	E	O	R	G	R	I	O	N
E	T	I	L	Ⓡ	T	H	F	C	D	C	Y	V	N	I
K	L	M	Ⓐ	I	L	L	I	W	T	R	E	E	A	S
R	I	Ⓟ	C	A	R	R	O	L	L	O	N	R	H	L
E	M	T	E	L	A	D	N	E	L	G	S	T	R	A
B	A	T	T	L	E	M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	N
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	W	E	S	T	E	N	D

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Airport, Archeology, Arts, Battle Monument, Berkeley Square, Bridges, Calhoun, Carroll, Chestnut, City, Delaware, Ewing, Ferry, Glen Afton, Glendale, Greenwood, Hamilton, Hanover, Hill, Interstate, Island, Lower, Mercer, Mill, Park, Prospect, River, Road, Thunder, Titans, Villa, Watson, Weber, West End, Wilbur, William

Yesterday's Answer: Dress Up

Treasury 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

2 Maintenance, 2 Front Desk,
4 Housekeeping. $5.55/Hour.
Mail resume to MTO Maintenance at
P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

Looking for partime caregiver for weekends only.
Call 288-4911 and ask for Rita.

---

1 Electrician. $5.55/hour. 4 years exp. Hong Electric Ent., Inc.
hongeei@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 General Maintenance Worker

Duties: Performs various building maintenance work, such as carpentry, plumbing, mason, electrical repair and maintenance of appliances and perform yard work.
Qualifications: High School Graduate with 3 years related experience. Salary $5.55/hour

Send resume to: Nang O'cha Enterprise
Box 502668, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Clinical Embryologist

Must have 2 years lab experience, plus experience in clinical embryology.
Salary Negotiable.

Call Karen at 322-0419

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cheer Dragon Leasing Corporation has an opening for

(1) RECEPTIONIST

The applicant must meet the following criteria:
- High School Diploma
- Fluent in English speaking, writing and reading
- Speak, write and read in Chinese, Japanese or Korean
- Multi lingual skills are big plus
- Computer skills (Microsoft Word and Excel), Internet, social network
- Good communication skills
- US Citizen or Green Card is big plus
- Based in Tinian is big plus

Inquiries and CV forward to
jump@skydivemarianas.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

IM CALVO, LLC
P.O. Box 502795 Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Commercial Cleaner – With atleast 5 years work experience in cleaning apartment/building, dust & mop, polish floor & furniture. Must be honest, trustworthy and able to work flexible hours. $5.55/hour.

Email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com. No phone calls please. US applicants are encouraged to apply.

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Cheer Dragon Leasing Corporation has an opening for

General Manager

of Skydiving Operation Chef Instructor. Annual salary: $24,000. Applicant must be a skydiver with experience of no less than 15,000 jumps. Have extended knowledge in skydiving and tandem operation, at least 2 years experience in managing skydiving and tandem operation, to hold tandem instructor rating or manufacturer endorsement. Have knowledge and experience in aerial photography (handy cam) and editing video and photo materials. Communication in foreign languages is a plus.
Inquiries and CV forward to jump@skydivemarianas.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: May 30, 2014

(2) Barber
(2) All Around Beautician
(1) H.E. Parts Specialist

Please send resume to
MANTRADE COMPANY INC.
P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio...etc
Call for more information
CalvaTron 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.

Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Looking for an experienced administrator/coordinator:

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with over 142 business members and is the largest private business organization in the CNMI.

Hours: Mon-Friday, part time to full time from 8:00 to 5:00 plus evening and weekend hours during events.

Unconditional Job Requirements:
- 2-3 years experience in a top-level, high-pressure, deadline-oriented executive environment as an administrative assistant
- Intermediate to advanced MS Office, calendaring, correspondence, event planning
- Proven clear thinker, well organized, solution oriented
- Self-starter, efficient, productive, prompt
- Must have own transportation

Salary: $8 to $12 hourly, medical insurance.

Please submit resume with cover letter and references in person to Chamber office during weekday hours. Family Building, Garapan (1st floor, rear of building)

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

(04) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attend a hemodialysis training program
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate Distribution System
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- English Language Skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 06/26/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Okada Corporation dba Okadaya
1F Joeten Commercial Building Susupe, Saipan

FOUR (4) OPERATION MANAGER / COOK / HEAD CHEF
Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations; Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine included but not limited to Sushi, Tempura and Sashimi and specialty in making Hand Made Soba as well as cultural dished and different food preparations. Have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products. Must have at least 5 yrs experience.

THREE (3) SERVICE CREW
Must have at least 3 yrs work experience in customer service. Must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards. Can speak and understand Japanese. Have knowledge in Japanese products.

All applicants must provide current police clearance , must have a reliable transportation, and must agree to drug test. All resume (w picture) can be turn in at Okadaya office . No phone calls please, must apply in person.

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: Sticking point

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ADHES—>E

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Find today's solution in classified section

Heat take command of East finals, 102-90

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh got them started. LeBron James took over in the second half.

And in the end, the Miami Heat moved one win from yet another Eastern Conference title.

James had 32 points and 10 rebounds, Bosh added 25 points—nearly matching his output from the first three games of the series combined—and the Heat grabbed control of the East finals by topping the Indiana Pacers 102-90 in Game 4 for a 3-1 lead.

Dwyane Wade added 15 points and Miami never trailed, leading by 23 at one point.

"We try to get better every single day, every single game," James said. "When you do that and go out and play the type of game that you are capable of playing, you can be satisfied with the results. And that's what we've built over the years."

Only the Celtics and Lakers franchises have been to the NBA Finals in four straight seasons. The Heat now have three chances to join that club, starting with Game 5 at Indiana on Wednesday night.

"We got outplayed by the Heat," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said. "I wasn't disappointed in our fight. I was disappointed in the result."

Paul George scored 23 points and David West added 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacers, who got 15 points from George Hill. But Lance Stephenson—who made news in the days between Games 3 and 4 by suggesting he was in James' head—was held to nine and 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert was scoreless in 22 minutes for Indiana.

"I was trying to get into his head," Stephenson said, referring to James. "I guess he stepped up and got the win. I can take the heat."

The heat, maybe.

The Heat, maybe not.

Miami has won the last three games in the series, and going back to the point in Game 3 when the Heat trailed by 15, they have outscored the Pacers by 39 points in a span of about 6 1/2 quarters.

The Pacers won two elimination games in the first round against Atlanta, and need to win three more if their yearlong plan of topping Miami as kings of the East is going to become reality.

The odds are obviously stacked against them. When holding a 3-1 lead, Miami is 8-0 in Game 5s over the past four postseasons.

"We have a chance to play an NBA game on our home floor," West said. "We are going to try to do something that's very tough."

Bosh scored the game's first eight points, making a pair of 3-pointers and ending a series-long funk. He had scored exactly nine points in each of the first three games of these East finals and was held under 10 points in each of his last seven playoff games against Indiana.

But he came out flying, and probably not coincidentally, the Heat finally had a good start.

"I told him he was going to have a great game," James said. "We got off to a fast start because of him."

Miami won the first quarter for the first time in the series, going up 27-19 and helped in part by a late 3-pointer from Shane Battier - with replays showing Vogel moved down the sideline toward the Heat forward as he shot from near the Indiana bench.

If nothing else, at least he was trying to beat Big Brother.

Much as he did Sunday, Vogel used the big brother-little brother analogy with his team, trying any way to urge the Pacers to break through against the team that has ended their season in each of the past two years.

"He's got to make a decision at some point in his life, that no matter what, we're not going to lose this fight anymore," Vogel said, likening the Pacers to the little brother in that scenario. "We're at that point."

The fight isn't over.

But it was awfully one-sided for long stretches of Game 4, and George—who said he thought Indiana outplayed Miami—pointed to free throws as the reason why. Miami was 30 of 34 from the line; Indiana was 11 of 17.

"They won this game at the free-throw line," George said.

Miami outscored Indiana 31-20 in the third quarter and kept pulling away before the Pacers used a 15-3 run to make things rather interesting. Stephenson had a layup with 3:20 left that would have gotten Indiana within nine—but it was waved off after he was called for fouling Wade on his way to the basket.

Stephenson scored with 1:31 left to make it 99-90, but James snuffed out any comeback hopes right there with a three-point play.

Miami was without Chris Andersen, inactive because of a bruised left thigh. The Heat also tweaked their starting lineup, with Rashard Lewis in and Udonis Haslem out.

The Pacers were down only 49-44 at halftime—even though Hibbert and Stephenson both had three fouls, the Heat didn't have a turnover until the second quarter, Miami shot 10 more free throws in the half and Bosh and James combined for 32 points in the first 24 minutes.

If there was any doubt, Miami erased it quickly after halftime. James scored five points in a 7-0 spurt to open the second half, and the Heat were on their way.

"They're the best offensive team in the NBA," Vogel said.

AP

Miami Heat center Chris Bosh (1) gestures during the first half of Game 4 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series against the Indiana Pacers, Monday, May 26, 2014, in Miami.

Thunder's Serge Ibaka OK after return from injury

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—So far, so good for Serge Ibaka's comeback.

The Thunder forward said Monday that his strained left calf is feeling fine, and he expects to be able to play Tuesday in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals.

Ibaka came back from what was thought to be a season-ending injury to play 30 minutes in Game 3 against San Antonio. He had 15 points, seven rebounds and four blocks to help Oklahoma City beat the Spurs 106-97 Sunday night and trim their deficit in the series to 2-1.

Ibaka said he felt no worse on Monday than the night before. He said it was a struggle during the game, but he stayed loose and was able to deal with the pain.

"It was kind of hard a little bit with my feet," he said. "I was using more my right foot than left foot. I could not do too much last night. After we saw the video, I felt like I was slow."

If that was Ibaka's version of not doing much, San Antonio might have a problem. The Spurs won the first two games by a combined 52 points, but with Ibaka, Oklahoma City dominated on Sunday and led by 20 with just over three minutes to go.

"I love what he did," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "I love the determination that he played with. That's something that he's done all along. That was a great, great game by him. He impacted the game both ends of the floor."

Ibaka isn't worried about re-injuring the calf or making it worse. His single concern is being on the floor for his team.

"When we sign here in the NBA, we sign on everything, man," he said. "At the end of the day, no matter what happened last night ... I signed for this."

The Spurs said they have more problems than Ibaka. They said to win Tuesday, they need to improve their shooting, rebounding and penetration.

"We just need to play better, shoot the ball better," Spurs forward Tim Duncan said. "Just continue to attack and be more aggressive and try to get to the basket, get to the free throw line, just get them on their heels a little bit. I think we got on our heels too much, and the result was what it was."

The Spurs also need to keep Oklahoma City off the free-throw line. The Thunder outscored the Spurs 26-15 from the line on Sunday as Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant both went 8-for-8. Westbrook and Durant had combined for just 17 free-throw attempts in the first two games combined.

"The disparity in free throws really shows a sign of aggressiveness," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's about the game. It's about how you play."

The Thunder made several key changes for Game 3 that did not involve Ibaka. Backup point guard Reggie Jackson started and scored 15 points, adding another scoring threat to take pressure off Durant and Westbrook. Steven Adams, a rookie center, had seven points, nine rebounds and four blocks in 30 minutes. Guard Thabo Sefolosha and forward Nick Collison, who started the first two games of the series, didn't play at all.

Brooks, who rarely makes lineup changes, wasn't sure why this particular set of decisions worked so well. He said more adjustments might be forthcoming.

"I have confidence in the different styles that we can play, big or small, so whoever we play, you've got to play with five guys, and whoever we decide, I have confidence, the team has confidence," he said.

Oklahoma City outrebounded the Spurs 52-36 on Sunday after getting outrebounded by three in Game 1 and 15 in Game 2.

Sunday, for the first time in the series, San Antonio's offense sputtered. San Antonio shot 40 percent from the field after shooting at least 50 percent in Games 1 and 2. Ginobili scored 23 points on Sunday and Duncan scored 16 points, but no other Spurs scored more than 10.

Tony Parker struggled with Westbrook's and Jackson's improved defense. Parker made just 4 of 13 shots and had nine points, four assists and four turnovers.

"I take a lot of responsibility," Parker said. "That's my job on this team, to get everything going. That's why I took it hard last night, because I felt like I didn't play well."

AP

San Antonio Spurs center Tiago Splitter (22) shoots in front of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) in the first quarter of Game 3 of an NBA basketball playoff series in the Western Conference finals, Sunday, May 25, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

Ortiz, Red Sox end 10-game skid, rally past Braves

ATLANTA (AP)—David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox were in desperate need of a big hit.

On Monday, at long last, Big Papi delivered.

Ortiz homered and drove in four runs as the defending World Series champions ended their 10-game losing streak, rallying from a five-run deficit to defeat the Atlanta Braves 8-6.

"It's been too long since we last shook hands following a win," manager John Farrell.

Farrell called it "a total team win," then pointed to the two powerful bats in the middle of the lineup—Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia.

"In 10 games prior to today, there was one RBI combined," he said. "That's not to put it all on them, but they being in the middle of the lineup, their contributions are key to us."

Pedroia hit a two-run single before Ortiz tied the game with a three-run homer off Ervin Santana in the fifth inning.

With Red Sox fans at Turner Field chanting "Papi! Papi!" Ortiz then gave Boston the lead with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly off Ian Thomas (1-2) in the seventh.

"It seems like every big situation we need him, he came through for us," Pedroia said of Ortiz, the World Series MVP last October.

Ortiz hit only .118 with no RBIs in Boston's longest losing streak in 20 years, but that didn't dim his star appeal to Red Sox Nation South. The roar following Ortiz's homer startled A.J. Pierzynski, who was waiting on deck.

"When David hit that homer, that was probably the loudest cheer as a visitor I've ever heard, especially since I was on deck and sort of got the full force of it," Pierzynski said.

"It was one of the loudest moments I can remember in any stadium."

The Red Sox trailed 6-1 after the fourth, with starter Clay Buchholz walking a career-high eight in only three-plus innings.

Buchholz has a 7.02 ERA after allowing six runs, and Farrell said "there's no determination" about the right-hander making his next start.

"It seems to be snowballing on me right now," Buchholz said, adding he had confidence during his pregame work in the bullpen.

Buchholz matched his season high of three walks in the second inning and added three walks in the Braves' three-run third. Justin Upton had a two-run double and Gerald Laird had a run-scoring single off Buchholz's left foot.

Buchholz didn't get out of Atlanta's three-run fourth. Heyward walked and scored on B.J. Upton's double, and Justin Upton and Simmons added RBI singles.

Despite the poor start by Buchholz, the Red Sox came back to end their worst skid since an 11-game slide in 1994. The losing streak was the longest for a defending World Series champion since the depleted 1998 Marlins had two 11-game skids.

AP

Boston Red Sox pitcher, Koji Uehara (19) hugs David Ortiz (34) after they defeated the Atlanta Braves 8-6 in the ninth inning of a baseball game on Monday, May 26, 2014, in Atlanta, Ga.

Yankees 6, Cardinals 4, 12 innings

In St. Louis, Brian Roberts hit a tiebreaking single in a three-run 12th inning after Brett Gardner's leaping catch at the left-field fence kept New York alive in the 11th.

Pinch-hitter Alfonso Soriano and Brendan Ryan each added an RBI for the Yankees, who took the opener of a three-game interleague series for their third straight win. Alfredo Aceves (1-2) worked two scoreless innings and David Robertson earned his 11th save in 12 chances.

Jon Jay had an RBI double in the 12th for the Cardinals, who lost for the third time in 12 games.

A standing-room crowd of 47,311, the third-largest at 9-year-old Busch Stadium, showed up to see an opponent making only its second appearance in St. Louis since losing to the Cardinals in the 1964 World Series.

Cardinals pitchers retired 20 of 21 batters before the 12th, when Randy Choate (0-2) faced five batters and four reached safely.

Cubs 8, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Jeff Samardzija struck out a season-high 10 for his first win since last August, snapping a 16-start winless streak for Chicago.

The right-hander entered with six no-decisions in his first 10 outings this year despite leading the majors with a 1.46 ERA.

Nate Schierholtz hit his first home run of the season, and Darwin Barney drove in two runs to help the Cubs come back from a 3-1 deficit.

Pablo Sandoval homered and drove in three runs for the Giants, who had won four in a row.

Yusmeiro Petit (3-2) gave up four runs and six hits in five innings while filling in for injured starter Matt Cain.

Pirates 5, Mets 3

In New York, Gaby Sanchez tagged the Mets again, hitting a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning and a pinch-hit homer in the eighth that sparked Pittsburgh's come-from-behind victory.

The Mets announced after the game that they had fired hitting coach Dave Hudgens. They also cut reliever Jose Valverde, who gave up Sanchez's go-ahead hit.

Sanchez upped his average against the Mets to .324 and has 34 RBIs against New York, his best totals against any NL team. He homered off Scott Rice while hitting for Ike Davis, who was making his return to Citi Field after being traded to the Pirates in mid-April.

Valverde (1-1) was booed off the field after allowing pinch-hitter Jose Tabata's tying single in the eighth. Valverde returned for the ninth and was even worse.

Tony Watson (5-0) pitched an inning for the win. Mark Melancon got his 10th save.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Giancarlo Stanton hit his NL-leading 15th home run and also doubled and singled in his latest power performance for Miami at Nationals Park.

Stanton doubled and scored in the first inning, then launched a long two-run homer in the third.

Stanton is hitting .333 (43 for 129) with 14 home runs and 27 RBIs in Washington since his career began in 2010. He has homered at Nationals Park more than any other visiting player during that time.

The Marlins improved to 7-17 on the road; they're 20-8 at home.

Nathan Eovaldi (4-2) pitched 6 1-3 innings, giving up two runs and three hits. Steve Cishek worked the ninth for his 11th save.

Adam LaRoche homered for the Nationals, who had won 12 of their last 13 against Miami at home. Tanner Roark (3-3) went seven innings.

Phillies 9, Rockies 0

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard had five RBIs and Kyle Kendrick pitched into the seventh inning to snap his 10-game losing streak for Philadelphia.

A day after Dodgers right-hander Josh Beckett threw a no-hitter against the Phillies, leadoff man Ben Revere started with a single for the first of Philadelphia's 12 hits.

Kendrick (1-5) allowed six hits over 6 2-3 innings to earn his first win since last Aug. 6, a span of 16 winless starts. His best performance in a while came against the top offense in the majors. The Rockies are first in runs (262) and batting average (.291).

Jhoulys Chacin (0-4) gave up four runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. He has lost five straight decisions dating to last season.

Orioles 7, Brewers 6, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Schoop hit two home runs and newly acquired Nick Hundley singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to lift Baltimore to victory in the interleague contest.

Down 6-4 with two outs in the ninth, the Orioles rallied off Milwaukee closer Francisco Rodriguez. Schoop's second homer cut it to one. After pinch-hitter Delmon Young singled, Nick Markakis hit a game-tying double.

With two outs in the 10th, J.J. Hardy doubled off Rob Wooten (1-2) and scored on Hundley's single.

Darren O'Day (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning of relief to get the win. Zach Britton pitched out of trouble in the 10th, to record his third save in three opportunities.

Blue Jays 10, Rays 5

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit his 13th home run in May and Dioner Navarro and Steve Tolleson added back-to-back shots as the Toronto Blue Jays won their seventh straight game, beating the Tampa Bay Rays.

Melky Cabrera had three hits and three RBIs as the AL East-leading Blue Jays won for the 12th time in 14 games.

Toronto has hit at least one home run in nine straight games and leads the majors with 73 this season, including an ML-best 41 in May.

David DeJesus, Desmond Jennings and James Loney all hit solo homers for the Rays, whose season-high four-game winning streak was snapped.

Drew Hutchison wasn't at his best, but benefited from strong run support to win his career-best third straight start.

Hutchison (4-3) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings, matched a season-worst with four walks and struck out none.

Athletics 10, Tigers 0

In Oakland, California, Kyle Blanks homered in his home debut at the Coliseum and Derek Norris capped Oakland's five-homer day with a grand slam as the Athletics ended a four-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

Yoenis Cespedes, Brandon Moss and Josh Donaldson also homered.

Tommy Milone (3-3) allowed four hits in 6 2-3 scoreless innings. He is 3-0 with a 1.03 ERA in his past four starts.

The A's got four solo homers against Drew Smyly (2-3) to win the first meeting of the season against the team that eliminated them in Game 5 of the division series the past two postseasons.

Astros 9, Royals 2

In Kansas City, George Springer homered in his fourth straight game and went 4 for 4 with three RBIs and scored five runs in Houston's victory over Kansas City.

The Astros have won three straight, matching their longest winning streak this season, and snapped a six-game losing streak to the Royals.

Springer led off the eighth with a home run off Louis Coleman, his fifth homer in four games. He is the first Houston rookie to homer in four straight games. Lance Berkman was the last Astro to homer in four straight games, July 4-8, 2010.

Springer also had two doubles and became the first Astro to score five runs in a game since Cody Ransom on Sept. 24, 2007, against St. Louis. Springer extended his hitting streak to eight games, and is 8 for 16 with 11 RBIs and 10 runs in the past five games.

Scott Feldman (3-2) held the Royals to two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Royals rookie starter Yordano Ventura was led off the field by a trainer in the third inning after experiencing discomfort in his elbow. The hard-throwing right-hander is scheduled for a MRI on Tuesday.

Ventura (2-5) went 2 2-3 innings, allowing five runs and seven hits and three walks.

Mariners 5, Angels 1

In Seattle, Chris Young pitched shutout ball until Albert Pujols homered in the seventh inning, Robinson Cano had three hits and two RBIs to raise his average to .332, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Young (4-2) kept the Angels hitless until Kole Calhoun singled with one out in the sixth. An inning later, Pujols hit his 506th career home run, pulling within three of Gary Sheffield for 24th on baseball's all-time homer list.

The Mariners scored five times in the first two innings off Tyler Skaggs (4-2). Three of the runs were unearned runs.

White Sox 6, Indians 2

In Chicago, Conor Gillaspie hit three doubles while going 4 for 4 and Dayan Viciedo had a three-run homer as the Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland.

Gillaspie scored twice and drove in a run. He became the first White Sox player with three doubles in a game since Paul Konerko on May 26, 2012, against the Indians.

Viciedo connected in the third inning against Josh Tomlin (3-2).

Jose Quintana (3-4) pitched six effective innings. Scott Downs got four outs for his first save.

Rangers 7, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Nick Tepesch won his second consecutive start, Elvis Andrus and Chris Gimenez each had two RBIs, and the Texas Rangers beat Minnesota.

Tepesch (2-0) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings, striking out four to win consecutive starts for the first time in his career.

Alex Rios added two more hits and now has six straight multihit games.

Trevor Plouffe homered for the Twins, who have lost four in a row. Kevin Correia (2-6) took the loss.

Australian champ Wawrinka stunned in French opener

PARIS (AP)—The positive vibes and big-deal victories began for Stan Wawrinka at last year's U.S. Open, back when he still went by "Stanislas," and picked up steam at this year's Australian Open, where he earned the right to forever be called "major champion."

And yet all of that seemed so far away late Monday at the French Open as dusk approached—and defeat became apparent—in Wawrinka's first Grand Slam match since winning his first major title.

Surprisingly, Wawrinka looked listless. More stunningly, he looked very little like a guy who was seeded No. 3 behind Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic and proclaimed himself "one of the favorites" just a few days earlier. In by far the biggest development of the tournament's first two days, Wawrinka lost in the first round at Roland Garros with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0 defeat to 41st-ranked Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain.

"I was trying to find my game, trying ... to be aggressive, trying to find anything. And I didn't," said Wawrinka, whose trademark one-handed backhanded was off-target throughout. "I was completely flat."

He is the first Australian Open champ to exit in the first round of that year's French Open since Petr Korda in 1998.

Garcia-Lopez has never been past the third round at a major.

During a pre-tournament news conference Friday, Wawrinka spoke about deriving confidence from his recent spate of success.

Long in the shadow of Roger Federer, his Swiss Davis Cup and Olympic teammate, not to mention good friend, Wawrinka reached his first major semifinal in New York last September, beating defending champion Andy Murray before losing a five-setter to Djokovic. In January, Wawrinka topped Nadal in the Australian Open final.

Boosting his clay-court bona fides heading to Paris, Wawrinka defeated Federer in April's final at the Monte Carlo Masters.

While he's never been beyond the quarterfinals at the French Open, Wawrinka seemed primed to do so.

Instead, he lost in the first round in Paris for the first time since 2006, when he was only 21.

"I need to put the puzzle back together, but differently than in the past," Wawrinka said, "because now—after winning a Grand Slam, (Monte Carlo), being No. 3 in the world—everything is different."

Wawrinka—who recently told the ATP he'd rather go by the shortened version of his first name—finished with 62 unforced errors, 34 more than Garcia-Lopez.

"I think what made him lose is he was not very strong mentally - and I was," said Garcia-Lopez, who thought the match would be suspended because of impending darkness; there are no artificial lights on French Open courts.

AP

Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka bows his head after missing a return during the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Monday, May 26, 2014.

BANMI sets fundraising tourney for Micro Games

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be hosting a fundraising basketball tournament next month for the teams it will be sending to the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei in July.

The fundraiser will run from June 5 to 8 and is open to the first eight teams (men's) and four (women's) that will register and complete the requirements, including the $200 (men's) and $100 (women's) entrance fees.

"The tournament will feature a double-elimination format for men's and a round robin format for the women's division. Confirmed to participate in the tournament are the men's and women's team of the Anderson Bombers and possibly a squad from the Phillipines. The tournament will charge a spectator fee of $1 and there will be raffle drawings, 3-point contest, half court shot for spectators, and lots of other giveaways. The future of CNMI basketball seeks your assistance and support so that we may have the greatest opportunity to represent the CNMI with pride," BANMI said in a press statement.

Games will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and representatives of interested teams are requested to attend a meeting tomorrow at 6pm at the conference room of the Ada Gym.

For more information, contact tournament director Abner Venus or CNMI national coach Elias Rangamar at 888-3215/989-5225 or send email to abnervenus1@gmail.com/eli_rang@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

TOKA

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the shaky 2-point lead to double figures by the end of the halftime, 35-23. Four Toka players scored at least to baskets apiece in the second canto, while two more contributed at least one field goal. Blue Haus, on the other hand, was held to four field goals and 9 markers, its lowest output in a quarter. Leo Galarse, Ivan De Vero, and Lerio Pagarao, who are known scorers, were a no-show in the second canto. Galarse was limited to one field goal, while Devero and Pagarao were scoreless and struggled all night. Darwin Barbo was the only Blue Haus player to post more than two points in the second period.

The deposed champion continued to have a lackluster offense and fell on a deeper hole in the third quarter, as Marvin Rabauliman stepped up for Toka, unloading 8 of his 14 points in that period, which ended with his team on top by 19, 59-40.

Again, the guards of Blue Haus were off in the third with Galarse held to a free throw and Devero and Pagarao making only two points each, leaving Elmer Esdrelon the tough task to keep the team afloat. Esdrelon tallied 7 points in the third and was the only player from his team to register more than 3 points. It did not help that Blue Haus' frontliners also failed to assert their might against the much smaller, but quicker big men of Toka.

With Toka giving Blue Haus a clinic, the former padded its lead to as much as 24, 64-40, early in the fourth quarter before the former made one final push for a comeback. Galarse led the rally, scoring 8 points in the 17-5 exchange to move Blue Haus within 12, 57-69. The 2013 champion then had a chance to slice the deficit to 10 when it forced a turnover off Toka's inbound play, but faltered on two straight attempts. The first miss came from Pagarao, who drove to the basket, but his shot was short, while the second was an airball from Brendon Talania near the 15-foot line after Devero got the offensive board.

Two free throws from Dan Barcinas ended Blue Haus' run and restored order back to Toka, which went for a strong finish in the last two minutes of the match to march into the finals. Toka's win was a sort of revenge, as core of the squad also played for NMC/Proa, which lost to Blue Haus in the finals last season.

Toka 83 – Lizama 15, Barcinas 14, Rabauliman 14, Tudela 10, Joyner 8, Mendoza 6, Basa 6, Lampkin 4, Caro 3.

Blue Haus 69 – Esdrelon 16, Galarse 13, Barbo 12, Talania 4, Devero 4, Demapan 4, Santos 4, Pagarao 4, De Dios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 35-23, 59-40, 83-69.

8 CLINCH

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Ortega was also perfect (4-0) in Group 3, downing Sato San (2-2) and Rick Brien (1-3). Montenejo recorded a field-best 2-2 slate to round out the semis cast, as he won remaining seat against Toshi San (1-3) and Ray Musada (0-4).

In the men's B singles, only Deether Edralin is assured of a semis ticket in Group 1 after sweeping pool play. He is in Group 1 and finished the elimination round with a 4-0 record after winning over Jeff Riman, Kelvin Son, and Celso Agui. Riman and Son completed pool play with similar 2-2 records and will play in a knockout match to determine the second qualifier in Group 1.

In Group 2, Ezekiel Macario is likely to notch a semis slot as he is still unbeaten in three games. Joel Ortega and Edwin Montoya are battling for the second and last spot with the former holding a 2-2 record and the latter owning a 1-2 mark. Aries Cordero bowed out of the division with his 1-3 slate. Montoya will play Macario this Friday and a win will help him force a tie with Ortega for the last semis berth.

In the men's A singles, only two Final Four tickets are left after Glenn Bluutjens and Macario bagged the first two. Macario and Bluutjens are in Group 2 and tied for first place with similar 3-1 records, booting out Sam Jones (2-2) and Edralin (0-4).

In the tough Group 1, it is still an open race among four competitors. Jordan Pangilinan is unbeaten in two games to lead the group, while Andreau Galvez and Ferdie Arago are breathing on the former's neck with their identical 2-1 marks. Macoi Aguda is also in the thick of the fight with his 1-1 slate. Gary Bandoja is out of the running after dropping his first four games.

The remaining elimination games, knockout matches, semis, and title games will be played this weekend. Results in the women's and mixed doubles will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

BRAZIL

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20 and 19 in the world rankings, respectively, while Cameroon is at the 50th spot—the lowest in the bracket and third the lowest in the entire 32-team field.

Besides the home crowd support, history is on Brazil's side. It is the only team with the most World Cup titles (5), the squad that has competed in every World Cup since 1930 and when it failed to win the championship trophy, it still made it to the podium on four occasions—runners-up in 1950 and 1958 and third in 1938 and 1978.

As for its roster, Brazil boasts a talented crew led my Neymar. An explosive player whose skills are compared to that of his compatriot Ronaldinho, Neymar will be supported by Thiago, Hulk, and Fred. Thiago (Silva) is a solid defender and the team captain, while Hulk (Givanildo Vieira de Souza) is a forward/winger, who was once named top scorer in the Europa League. Fred (Frederico Chaves Guedes) is a striker and scored the most goals (5) in Selecao's title conquest in the 2013 FIFA Confederation Cup. Brazil won over Spain, 3-0, behind Fred's two goals and one from Neymar. The Confederation Cup champion was coached by Luiz Felipe Scolari, who will be back to call the shots for Selecao next month along with veteran goalkeeper Julio Cesar.

If there's any team that has a strong chance to beat Brazil for the top spot in Group A, it will be Mexico, which stunned the host in the finals of the 2012 Olympic Games, 2-1. The El Tri will be led by Olympic Games hero Oribe Peralta, who will be joined by a bunch of overseas-based players.

Croatia also has several players playing in the English Premier League and the German Bundesliga and the Croats will lean on them and captain Darijo Srn to pull off an upset. Cameroon is the dark horse in Group A, but is the only African team to have made it to the quarterfinals (1990).

In Group B and the entire tournament, Spain is the highest ranked at the No. 1 spot. The La Selección is bringing back the core of the team that won against the Netherlands, 1-0, in the 2010 finals in South Africa. This includes the deadly midfielder trio of Xavi, Andres Iniesta, and Xabi Alonso, and the ever-reliable goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas. Also back for the defending champion is coach Vicente del Bosque.

Having an early rematch against Spain in the group stage, the No. 15 ranked Netherlands will use its touted offense when it squares off anew against the defending champion. The Dutch are Europe's highest-scoring team (tied with Germany) during the qualification, drilling 28 goals. Leading the charge for the Netherlands is striker Robin van Persie, who scored the most goals for Manchester United with 11.

While the Netherlands are picked to join Spain in the Round of 16, you cannot count the No. 13 Chile out. Chile, like the Netherlands, is known as a team that loves to attack, as evident in the former's 25 goals scored (the second most in the CONMEBOL) in the qualifying games.

The No. 59 Australia had a bumpy ride en route to the 2014 World Cup and it is expected to face another tough challenge to make it past the group stage only for the second time. The Socceroos made their first Round of 16 appearance in 2006 in Germany before losing to eventual champion Italy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	30	22	.577	–
New York	27	23	.540	2
Baltimore	26	23	.531	2½
Tampa Bay	23	29	.442	7
Boston	21	29	.420	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	28	19	.596	–
Chicago	26	27	.491	5
Kansas City	24	26	.480	5½
Minnesota	23	25	.479	5½
Cleveland	24	28	.462	6½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	31	20	.608	–
Los Angeles	28	22	.560	2½
Texas	26	25	.510	5
Seattle	25	25	.500	5½
Houston	20	32	.385	11½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	28	22	.560	–
Miami	27	25	.519	2
Washington	25	26	.490	3½
Philadelphia	22	26	.458	5
New York	22	28	.440	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	30	22	.577	–
St. Louis	28	23	.549	1½
Pittsburgh	23	27	.460	6
Cincinnati	22	27	.449	6½
Chicago	19	30	.388	9½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	32	19	.627	–
Los Angeles	28	24	.538	4½
Colorado	27	24	.529	5
San Diego	23	29	.442	9½
Arizona	21	32	.396	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan vs Tinian in CNMI District Meet Senior League

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

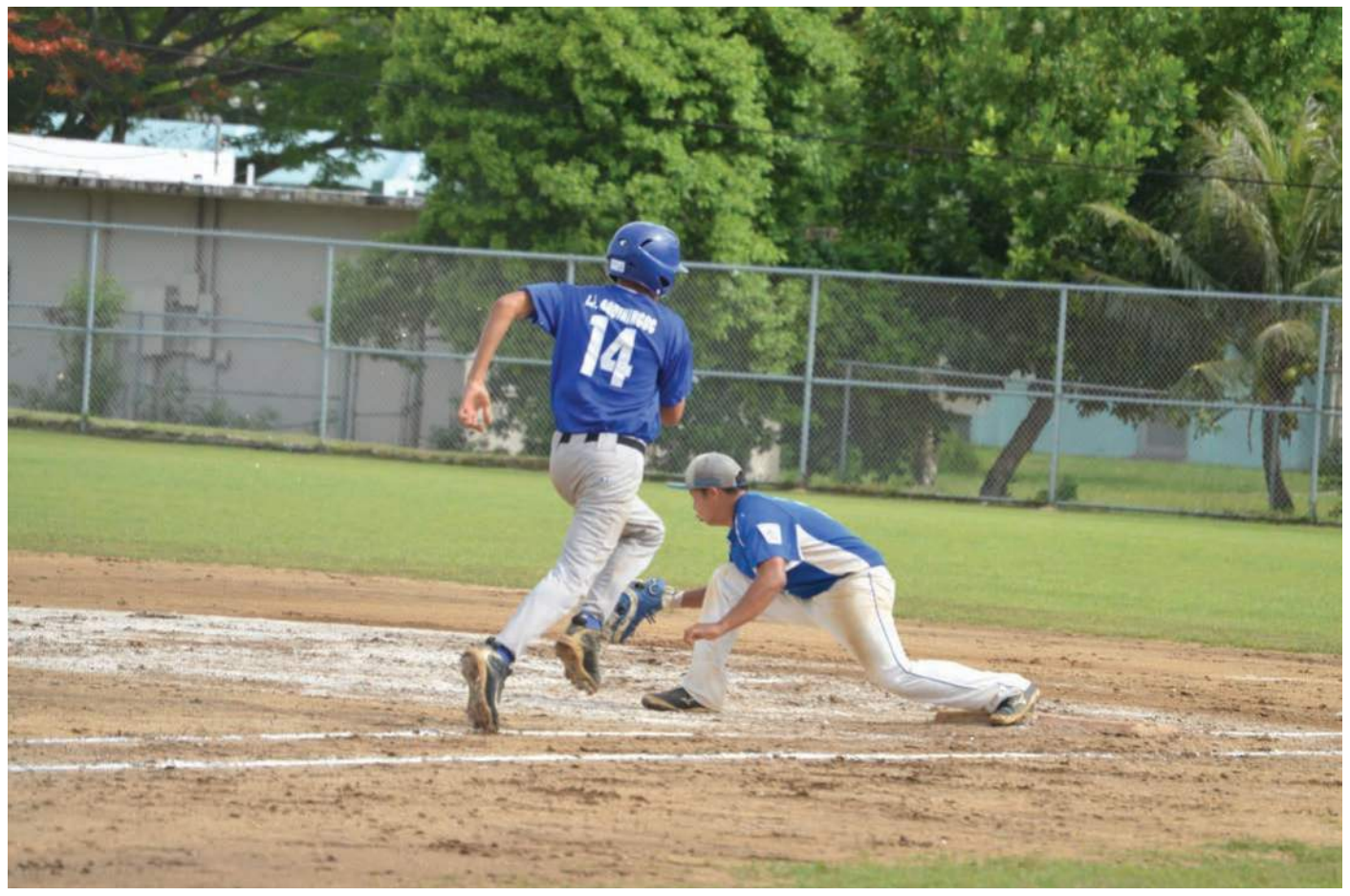
The Saipan Senior All-Stars celebrate their sweep of Tinian.

Saipan Senior All-Stars' Darion Jones makes a follow through after his pitch during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game against Tinian Senior All-Stars in the 2014 CNMI District Meet last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Tinian players and their coach huddle before going at bat at the bottom of the fifth inning.

A Saipan Senior All-Stars reaches home plate safely as the Tinian catcher waits for a throw from centerfield.

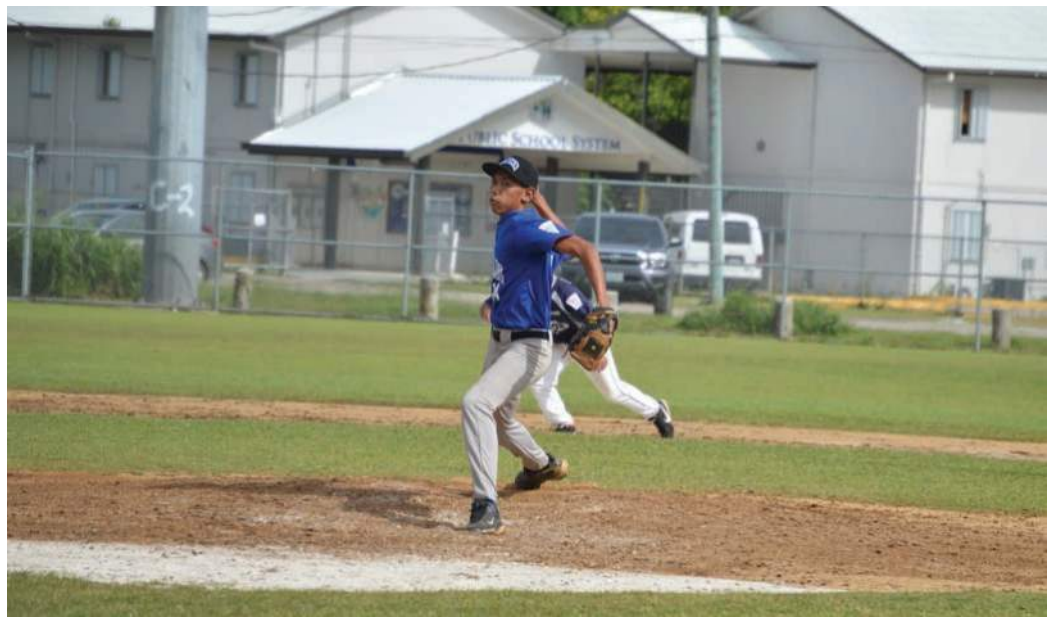
A Tinian first baseman has all eyes on their pitcher, while a Saipan Senior All-Stars runner waits for the ensuing play.



Saipan Senior All-Stars first baseman Nathan Camacho beats Tinian runner Bradley Lizama.

A Tinian infielder catches the ball and eventually beats a Saipan Senior All-Stars runner.

A Tinian batter waits for his turn at bat.



Tinian's Lawrence Aquiningoc pitches at the top of the fifth inning.

Heat take command of East finals, 102-90

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Toka eliminates Blue Haus, enters finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toka's Marvin Rabauliman goes up for a reverse layup against Blue Haus' Leo Galarse, left, and Ivan Devero during their semis game in the QQ caging last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Toka dethroned Blue Haus after an emphatic 83-69 win in their semis duel in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Toka recovered from a slow start and seized control of the match late in the first quarter to oust Blue Haus and advance to the best-of-three title series against JP World. Game 1 of the finals will be played tonight at 8pm after the 6:30pm consolation game between Blue Haus and Island Manpower.

Behind 4-12, Toka held Blue Haus to 2 points and one field goal in the last four minutes of the first quarter to grab the upper hand, 16-14. Toka never looked back, stretching its advantage in the last three periods and withstanding Blue Haus' fourth-quarter rally.

Blue Haus played catch up since losing the driver's seat at the end of the first canto, as it hit baskets sporadically and relied heavily on one-on-one moves, while Toka moved the ball well and often found open men for easy baskets.

With Toka playing unselfish basketball and going for a spread-out offense, it increased

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8 clinch semis seats in IT&E tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eight players secured semifinal berths in the men's singles competition of the 2014 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament after the completion of Week 3 games over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the men's C singles, the Final Four cast is complete with Raphael Zapanta, Patrick Fernandez, A.J. Ortega, and Jeremy Montenejo making up the list.

Zapanta topped Group 1 with an even 2-2 record, beating Marc Mora (1-3) and John Cano (1-3) for the lone playoff ticket in their bracket. In Group 2, Fernandez was undefeated (4-0) shutting out Tommy Kim (2-2) and Taeho Kim (2-2), while

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Joel Ortega, seen here returning a shot during his and Loyda Ito's doubles game against Chris Hilario and Windy Fernandez last Saturday, is fighting for a semis berth in the men's B singles event of the IT&E badminton tournament being played at the TSL Sports Complex.

Brazil, Spain favored in Group A and B

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Host Brazil and defending champion Spain are definitely the teams to watch in the preliminary matches of the first two groups in next month's 2014 World Cup.

Brazil leads Group A and will be up against Croatia, Mexico, and Cameroon, while Spain is in Group B along with the Netherlands, Chile, and Australia.

The host team is the highest-ranked in its group at No. 4, Croatia and Mexico are at the No.

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